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Contents

Resolutions

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/2	Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization (E/2003/L.19 and E/2003/SR. 29)	16	10 July 2003	14
2003/3	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/201 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (E/2003/L.20 and E/2003/SR.30)	3 (a)	11 July 2003	21
2003/4	World Solidarity Fund (E/2003/L.18 and E/2003/SR.31)	3 (a)	11 July 2003	28
2003/5	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/2003/L.28 and E/2003/SR.35)	5	15 July 2003	30
2003/6	The role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/2003/L.27 and E/2003/SR.36)	4	16 July 2003	36
2003/7	Admission of Timor-Leste as a full member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission (E/2003/15/Add.1)	10	18 July 2003	37
2003/8	Consideration of the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a United Nations Arabic language centre (E/2003/15/Add.1)	10	18 July 2003	37
2003/9	Establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a committee on women (E/2003/15/Add.1)	10	18 July 2003	38
2003/10	Preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 (E/2003/26)	14 (b)	21 July 2003	40
2003/11	Policies and programmes involving youth (E/2003/26)	14 (b)	21 July 2003	41
2003/12	Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities (E/2003/26)	14 (b)	21 July 2003	43
2003/13	National and international cooperation for social development: implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/2003/26)	14 (b)	21 July 2003	45

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/14	Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/2003/26)	14 (b)	21 July 2003	49
2003/15	Agreed conclusions on national and international cooperation for social development (E/2003/26)	14 (b)	21 July 2003	50
2003/16	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi (E/2003/L.34/Rev.1 and E/2003/SR.43)	7 (h)	21 July 2003	54
2003/17	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (E/2003/L.15/Rev.1 and E/2003/SR.44)	6 (b)	22 July 2003	55
2003/18	Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) (E/2003/L.25/Rev.1 and E/2003/SR.44)	7 (g)	22 July 2003	57
2003/19	World Summit on the Information Society (E/2003/L.30/Rev.1 and E/2003/SR.44)	13 (b)	22 July 2003	59
2003/20	Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	61
2003/21	International cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	65
2003/22	Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	67
2003/23	Preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	71
2003/24	Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, including the management of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	74
2003/25	International cooperation, technical assistance and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	76
2003/26	Prevention of urban crime (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	78

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/27	Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	80
2003/28	International cooperation in the prevention, combating and elimination of kidnapping and in providing assistance to victims (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	81
2003/29	Prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	83
2003/30	United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	85
2003/31	Functioning of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	92
2003/32	Training in precursor control, countering money-laundering and drug abuse prevention (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	93
2003/33	Reduction of illicit drug demand (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	94
2003/34	International assistance to the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	95
2003/35	Strengthening the prevention and suppression of illicit drug trafficking (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	96
2003/36	Establishment of national networks to counter money-laundering in the framework of national and international drug control plans (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	97
2003/37	Strengthening alternative development through trade and socio-environmental preservation (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	99
2003/38	Funding of travel for participants in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	100
2003/39	Strengthening systems of control over chemical precursors and preventing their diversion and trafficking (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	102
2003/40	Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific purposes (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	104
2003/41	Efforts to counter the trend towards the legalization of drugs for non-medical use (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	105
2003/42	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/2003/27)	14 (a)	22 July 2003	107

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/43	Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (E/2003/27)	14 (a)	22 July 2003	109
2003/44	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (E/2003/27)	14 (a)	22 July 2003	113
2003/45	The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.45)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	117
2003/46	Long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2003/L.35)	7 (e)	23 July 2003	118
2003/47	International Conference on Financing for Development (E/2003/L.10 and E/2003/L.39)	6 (a)	24 July 2003	119
2003/48	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States (E/2003/L.11/Rev. 1)	7 (d)	24 July 2003	121
2003/49	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2003/L.24/Rev.1 and E/2003/SR.47)	7 (f)	24 July 2003	122
2003/50	Ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict (E/2003/L.22)	7 (h)	24 July 2003	124
2003/51	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/2003/L.33 and E/2003/SR.47)	9	24 July 2003	125
2003/52	Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (E/2003/L.16)	10	24 July 2003	129
2003/53	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau (E/2003/L.2, E/2003/L.23/Rev.1 and E/2003/SR.48)	7 (h)	24 July 2003	130
2003/54	Information and communication technologies for development (E/2003/L.46)	7 (i)	24 July 2003	131
2003/55	Preparations for an international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/2003/29)	13 (a)	24 July 2003	132

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/56	Science and technology for development (E/2003/31, E/2003/L.42 and E/2003/SR.48)	13 (b)	24 July 2003	134
2003/57	Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/2003/L.44 and E/2003/SR.48)	14 (a)	24 July 2003	137
2003/58	Enhancement of the functioning of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in regard to the operation of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights (E/2003/L.37 and E/2003/SR.48)	14 (g)	24 July 2003	145
2003/59	Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (E/2003/L.26 and E/2003/SR.48)	11	24 July 2003	146
2003/60	Public administration and development (E/2003/L.45 and E/2003/SR.49)	13 (g)	25 July 2003	148
2003/61	Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/2003/29 and E/2003/L.32)	13 (a)	25 July 2003	149
2003/62	Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2003/L.12 and E/2003/SR. 49)	13 (d)	25 July 2003	161
2003/63	Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2003/42 and E/2003/SR.49)	13 (i)	25 July 2003	163
2003/64	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (E/2003/46 and E/2003/SR.49)	13 (l)	25 July 2003	164

Decisions

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/223	Adoption of the agenda of the substantive session of 2003 (E/2003/L.5 and E/2003/SR.13, 15 and 24)	1	30 June 2003	168
2003/224	Delegation of formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund (E/2003/L.13 and E/2003/SR.30)	3 (b)	11 July 2003	168
2003/225	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with operational activities (E/2003/SR.31)	3	11 July 2003	168
2003/226	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (E/2003/SR.35)	5	15 July 2003	170
2003/227	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the coordination segment (E/2003/SR.36)	4	16 July 2003	170
2003/228	Venue of the sixtieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/2003/15/Add.1)	10	18 July 2003	171
2003/229	Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-sixth session and provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission (E/2003/25)	13 (f)	21 July 2003	171
2003/230	Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission (E/2003/26)	14 (b)	21 July 2003	172
2003/231	Confirmation of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/2003/26)	14 (b)	21 July 2003	173
2003/232	Genetic privacy and non-discrimination (E/2003/L.36)	14 (i)	22 July 2003	173
2003/233	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twelfth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its thirteenth session (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	173
2003/234	Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (E/2003/30)	14 (c)	22 July 2003	177

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/235	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	177
2003/236	Report of the International Narcotics Control Board (E/2003/28)	14 (d)	22 July 2003	179
2003/237	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (E/2003/27)	14 (a)	22 July 2003	180
2003/238	Human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israel (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	180
2003/239	Situation of human rights in Myanmar (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.45)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	180
2003/240	Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	181
2003/241	Situation of human rights in Burundi (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	181
2003/242	Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	181
2003/243	Effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	182
2003/244	The right to food (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	182
2003/245	Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	182
2003/246	World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	183
2003/247	Question of arbitrary detention (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	184

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/248	Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	184
2003/249	Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	184
2003/250	Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	184
2003/251	Elimination of violence against women (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	185
2003/252	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	185
2003/253	Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994 (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	185
2003/254	Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	186
2003/255	Human rights defenders (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	186
2003/256	Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	186
2003/257	Situation of human rights in Afghanistan (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	186
2003/258	Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	187
2003/259	Situation of human rights in Sierra Leone (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	187
2003/260	Technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	187
2003/261	The right to development (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	188
2003/262	Situation of human rights in Iraq (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.45)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	188

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/263	Decision relating to Liberia under the procedure established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	188
2003/264	The Social Forum (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	188
2003/265	Discrimination in the criminal justice system (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	189
2003/266	Housing and property restitution in the context of refugees and other displaced persons (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	189
2003/267	Indigenous people's permanent sovereignty over natural resources (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	189
2003/268	The prevention of human rights violations caused by the availability and misuse of small arms and light weapons (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	190
2003/269	Organization of work of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	190
2003/270	Dates of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/2003/23 (Part I))	14 (g)	23 July 2003	190
2003/271	International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (E/2003/23 (Part I) and E/2003/SR.46)	14 (g)	23 July 2003	191
2003/272	Calendar of conferences and meetings for 2004 and 2005 in the economic, social and related fields (E/2003/L.7 and Corr.1 and E/2003/SR.47)	7 (c)	24 July 2003	191
2003/273	Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/2003/L.33 and E/2003/SR.47)	9	24 July 2003	191
2003/274	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with regional cooperation (E/2003/SR.47)	10	24 July 2003	191
2003/275	Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations (E/2003/32)	12	24 July 2003	192

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/276	Suspension of consultative status (E/2003/32, E/2003/L.38 and E/2003/SR.47)	12	24 July 2003	196
2003/277	Implementation of the electronic meeting system ("Paperless Committee") (E/2003/32 and E/2003/SR.47)	12	24 July 2003	197
2003/278	Resumed 2003 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/2003/32)	12	24 July 2003	197
2003/279	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2003 regular session (E/2003/32)	12	24 July 2003	197
2003/280	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fifth session: Timor-Leste (E/2003/L.29 and E/2003/SR.47)	13 (a)	24 July 2003	197
2003/281	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fifth session: Cape Verde and Maldives (E/2003/L.43 and E/2003/SR.47)	13 (a)	24 July 2003	198
2003/282	Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/2003/L.40/Rev.1)	13 (a)	24 July 2003	198
2003/283	Preparations for an international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/2003/L.41)	13 (a)	24 July 2003	198
2003/284	Statistics (E/2002/24 and E/2003/SR.47)	13 (c)	24 July 2003	199
2003/285	Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2003/L.4)	14 (e)	24 July 2003	199
2003/286	Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2003/L.14 and E/2003/SR.47)	14 (e)	24 July 2003	199
2003/287	Themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the 2004 substantive session of the Council (E/2003/SR.48)	1	24 July 2003	200
2003/288	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with coordination, programme and other questions (E/2003/SR.48)	7	24 July 2003	200
2003/289	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eleventh session and provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Commission (E/2003/29)	13 (a)	24 July 2003	201

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/290	Contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on rural development (E/2003/31)	13 (b)	24 July 2003	201
2003/291	Duration of future sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2003/31)	13 (b)	24 July 2003	202
2003/292	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (E/2003/SR.48)	11	24 July 2003	202
2003/293	Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Commission (E/2003/31 and E/2003/SR.48)	13 (b)	24 July 2003	202
2003/294	Recommendations made by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/2003/4 and E/2003/SR.48)	13 (k)	24 July 2003	203
2003/295	Status of non-governmental organizations and other major groups accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (E/2003/29 and E/2003/SR.49)	13 (a)	25 July 2003	204
2003/296	Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/2003/29 and E/2003/SR.49)	13 (a)	25July 2003	204
2003/297	Date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2003/42)	13 (i)	25 July 2003	204
2003/298	Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its third session and provisional agenda for its fourth session (E/2003/42)	13 (i)	25 July 2003	204
2003/299	Intersessional work by ad hoc expert groups (E/2003/42 and E/2003/SR.49)	13 (i)	25 July 2003	206
2003/300	Workshop on the collection of data concerning indigenous peoples (E/2003/43)	14 (h)	25 July 2003	215
2003/301	High-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2003/43 and E/2003/SR.49)	14 (h)	25 July 2003	215

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2003/302	Participation of members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council (E/2003/43 and E/2003/SR.49)	14 (h)	25 July 2003	216
2003/303	Bureau of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2003/43)	14 (h)	25 July 2003	216
2003/304	Venue and dates for the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2003/43)	14 (h)	25 July 2003	216
2003/305	Provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2003/43)	14 (h)	25 July 2003	216
2003/306	Proposal for a second international decade of the world's indigenous people (E/2003/43 and E/2003/SR.49)	14 (h)	25 July 2003	217
2003/307	Review of indigenous issues within the United Nations system (E/2003/L.47)	14 (h)	25 July 2003	217
2003/308	Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B	8	25 July 2003	218
2003/309	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with economic and environmental questions (E/2003/SR.49)	13 (b), (d), (e), (j), (k) and (l)	25 July 2003	218
2003/310	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with social and human rights questions (E/2003/SR.49)	14 (b), (c), (e), (f), (g) and (h)	25 July 2003	219

Resolutions

2003/2

Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2529 (XXIV) of 5 December 1969, 32/156 and 32/157 of 19 December 1977 and 36/41 of 19 November 1981, as well as its decision 254 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977 and its resolution 2002/24 of 24 July 2002,

Having considered the text of the draft agreement negotiated by its Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies and the World Tourism Organization Committee on the Negotiations for the conversion of the Organization into a specialized agency,[1] in accordance with Article 57 and Article 63, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware that the text of the draft agreement was noted with satisfaction by the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization on 4 June 2003,

Recommends to the General Assembly that it approve at its fifty-eighth session the agreement contained in the annex to the present resolution.

29th plenary meeting
10 July 2003

Annex

Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization

Recalling resolutions 2529 (XXIV) of 5 December 1969 and 32/156 of 19 December 1977 of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

In consideration of the Charter of the United Nations and the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization,

In further consideration of the provisions of Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations and of article 3, paragraph 3, and article 31 of the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization,

The United Nations and the World Tourism Organization agree as follows:

Article 1
Recognition

1. The United Nations recognizes the World Tourism Organization as a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for taking such action as may be appropriate under its Statutes for the accomplishment of the objectives set forth therein.

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[1] E/2003/60, annex. Subsequently, amendments to the Arabic, French and Spanish versions of the agreement were submitted to the Bureau of the Council. Those amendments have been incorporated into the text presented in the annex to the present resolution.

2. The United Nations recognizes the decisive and central role of the World Tourism Organization, as an intergovernmental organization, in world tourism, as enshrined in its Statutes.

3. Convinced that tourism can contribute significantly to the pursuit of the shared objectives of achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication, the United Nations notes that, in accordance with its Statutes, the World Tourism Organization shall pay particular attention to the interests of the developing countries in the field of tourism.

Article 2
Coordination and cooperation

1. In its relations with the United Nations, its organs and the agencies of the United Nations system, the World Tourism Organization recognizes the coordinating role, as well as the comprehensive responsibilities in promoting economic and social development, of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council under the Charter of the United Nations.

2. In exercise of its central coordinating role in the field of tourism undertaken in accordance with its Statutes and with a view to contributing to economic and social development, in particular, opportunities for poverty eradication and employment creation in the least developed countries, the World Tourism Organization recognizes the need for effective coordination and cooperation with the United Nations, its organs and the agencies within the United Nations system.

3. The World Tourism Organization, accordingly, agrees to cooperate with the United Nations in whatever measure may be necessary to effect the required coordination of policies and activities.

4. The World Tourism Organization agrees further to participate in, and to cooperate with, any body or bodies which have been established or may be established by the United Nations for the purpose of facilitating such cooperation and coordination, in particular through membership in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and to furnish such information as may be required for the carrying out of this purpose.

5. The World Tourism Organization shall inform the Economic and Social Council of matters of inter-agency concern within its competence, and of any formal agreement on such matters to be concluded between the World Tourism Organization and another agency within the United Nations system.

Article 3
Reciprocal representation

1. Representatives of the United Nations shall be invited to attend the meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization and their subsidiary organs, and to participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of these bodies. Written statements presented by the United Nations shall be distributed by the secretariat of the World Tourism Organization to the members of the above-mentioned bodies, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure.

2. Representatives of the World Tourism Organization shall be invited to attend meetings and to participate, without the right to vote and in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure, in the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council, its commissions and committees, of the Main Committees and other organs of the General Assembly and of the conferences and meetings of the United Nations, with respect to items on their agenda relating to matters within the scope of the activities of the World Tourism Organization and other matters of mutual interest. Written statements presented by the World Tourism Organization shall be distributed by the Secretariat of the United Nations to the members of the above-mentioned bodies, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure.

3. Representatives of the World Tourism Organization shall be invited, for purposes of consultation, to attend meetings of the General Assembly when matters defined in paragraph 2 of this article are under consideration.

Article 4
Proposals of agenda items

1. After such preliminary consultations as may be necessary, the World Tourism Organization shall arrange for the inclusion in the agenda of its General Assembly, the Executive Council or their subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, items proposed by the United Nations.

2. After such preliminary consultations as may be necessary, the United Nations shall arrange for the inclusion in the agenda of the Economic and Social Council or, as appropriate and in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure, of other organs or bodies of the United Nations of items proposed by the World Tourism Organization.

Article 5
Recommendations of the United Nations

1. Having regard to the obligations of the United Nations to promote the objectives set forth in Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations and the functions and powers of the Economic and Social Council, under Article 62 of the Charter, to make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters and to make recommendations concerning these matters to the specialized agencies concerned, and having regard also to the responsibility of the United Nations, under Articles 58 and 63 of the Charter, to make recommendations for the coordination of the policies and activities of such specialized agencies, the World Tourism Organization agrees to arrange for the submission, as soon as possible, to the appropriate organ of the World Tourism Organization of all formal recommendations which the United Nations may make to it.

2. The World Tourism Organization agrees to enter into consultations with the United Nations upon request with respect to such recommendations, and in due course to report to the United Nations on the action taken by the World Tourism Organization or by its members to give effect to such recommendations, or on the other results of their consideration.

Article 6
Assistance to the United Nations

In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization, the World Tourism Organization shall cooperate with the United Nations by furnishing to it to the fullest extent possible such special information or studies, and by rendering such assistance to it, as the United Nations may request.

Article 7
Regular reports

The World Tourism Organization shall submit to the United Nations regular reports on its activities.

Article 8
Exchange of information and documents

Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of confidential material, full and prompt exchange of appropriate information and documents shall be made between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization.

Article 9
Public information

Having regard to the aim of the World Tourism Organization, as defined in article 3, paragraph 1, of its Statutes, and with a view to coordinating the activities of the World Tourism Organization in this field with the operations of the information services of the United Nations, supplementary arrangements regarding these matters shall be concluded between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization.

Article 10
Relations with the International Court of Justice

1. The World Tourism Organization agrees to furnish any information which may be requested by the International Court of Justice in pursuance of Article 34 of the Statute of the Court.

2. The General Assembly of the United Nations authorizes the World Tourism Organization to request advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice on legal questions arising within the scope of its competence other than questions concerning the mutual relationships between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization or other specialized agencies.

3. Such requests may be addressed to the International Court of Justice by the General Assembly or by the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization acting in pursuance of an authorization by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization.

4. When requesting the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion, the World Tourism Organization shall inform the Economic and Social Council of the request.

Article 11
Non-Self-Governing and other Territories

The World Tourism Organization agrees to cooperate within the fields of its competence with the United Nations in giving effect to the principles and obligations set forth in Chapters XI, XII and XIII of the Charter of the United Nations and other internationally recognized principles and obligations regarding colonial countries and peoples, and taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, with regard to matters affecting the well-being and development of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing and other Territories.

Article 12
Technical assistance

The United Nations and the World Tourism Organization undertake to work together in the provision of technical assistance in the field of tourism and tourism development. In particular, they undertake to avoid undesirable duplication of activities and services and agree to take such measures as may be required to achieve effective coordination within the framework of existing coordinating machinery in the field of technical assistance, taking into account the respective roles and responsibilities of the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization under their constituent instruments, as well as those of other organizations participating in technical assistance activities. To this end, the World Tourism Organization recognizes the overall responsibilities of the resident coordinators for operational activities for development, as formulated in the relevant General Assembly resolutions. As one of the smaller specialized agencies without field representation, the World Tourism Organization may use resident coordinators to ensure its representation and promote its role.

Article 13
Statistical services

1. The United Nations and the World Tourism Organization agree to strive for the maximum cooperation, the elimination of all undesirable duplication between them and the most efficient use of personnel in their respective collection, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical information. They agree to combine their efforts to secure the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of statistical information, to guarantee close coordination in their respective statistical related initiatives and to minimize the burden placed upon Governments and other organizations from which such information may be collected.

2. The World Tourism Organization recognizes that the United Nations is the central agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of tourism statistics serving the general purposes of international organizations.

3. The United Nations recognizes the World Tourism Organization as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyse, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system.

Article 14
Administrative cooperation

1. The United Nations and the World Tourism Organization recognize the desirability of cooperation in administrative matters of mutual interest.

2. Accordingly, the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization undertake to consult together, and with other agencies concerned within the United Nations system, from time to time concerning these matters, particularly the most efficient and harmonized use of facilities, staff and services and appropriate methods of avoiding the establishment and operation of competitive or overlapping facilities and services with a view to securing as much uniformity in these matters as possible.

3. The consultations referred to in this article shall be utilized to establish the most equitable manner in which any special services or assistance furnished, on request, by the World Tourism Organization to the United Nations or by the United Nations to the World Tourism Organization shall be financed subject to supplementary arrangements to be concluded for that purpose.

4. The consultations referred to in this article shall also explore the possibility of continuing or establishing common facilities or services in specific areas, including the possibility of one organization providing such facilities or services to one or several other organizations, and establish the most equitable manner in which such facilities or services shall be financed subject to supplementary arrangements to be concluded for that purpose.

Article 15
Regional and branch offices

Any regional or branch offices which the World Tourism Organization may establish shall closely cooperate with the regional or branch offices which the United Nations has established or may establish, in particular the offices of the regional commissions and of the resident coordinators.

Article 16
Personnel arrangements

1. The United Nations and the World Tourism Organization agree to develop, in the interests of uniform standards of international employment and to the extent feasible, common personnel standards, methods and arrangements designed to avoid unjustified differences in terms and conditions of employment, to avoid competition in recruitment of personnel, and to facilitate any mutually desirable and beneficial interchange of personnel. For this purpose the World Tourism Organization agrees to accept the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission and participate in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund in accordance with the Regulations of the Fund and accept the jurisdiction of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal in matters involving applications alleging non-observance of those Regulations.

2. The United Nations and the World Tourism Organization agree to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in achieving these ends, and in particular they agree:

(a) To consult together from time to time concerning matters of mutual interest relating to the terms and conditions of employment of the officers and staff, with a view to securing as much uniformity in these matters as may be feasible;

(b) To cooperate in the interchange of personnel when desirable, on a temporary or a permanent basis, making due provision for the retention of seniority and pension rights;

(c) To cooperate with the agencies of the United Nations system in the establishment and operation of suitable machinery for the settlement of disputes arising in connection with the employment of personnel and related matters.

3. The terms and conditions under which any facilities or services of the United Nations or the World Tourism Organization in connection with the matters referred to in this article are to be extended to the other shall, where necessary, be the subject of supplementary arrangements concluded for this purpose pursuant to article 20 of this Agreement.

Article 17
Budgetary and financial matters

1. The World Tourism Organization recognizes the desirability of establishing close budgetary and financial relationships with the United Nations in order that the administrative operations of the United Nations and the agencies within the United Nations system shall be carried out in the most efficient and economic manner possible, and that the maximum measure of coordination and uniformity with respect to these operations shall be secured.

2. The World Tourism Organization agrees to accept the Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit.

3. The World Tourism Organization agrees to conform, as far as may be practicable and appropriate, to standard practices and forms recommended by the United Nations.

4. Financial and budgetary arrangements that may be entered into between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization shall be approved in accordance with their respective constitutive instruments.

5. In the preparation of the budget of the World Tourism Organization, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization shall consult with the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to achieving, insofar as practicable, uniformity in presentation of the budgets of the United Nations and of the agencies within the United Nations system for the purposes of providing a basis for comparison of the several budgets without precluding the use by each organization of different currencies to formulate their budgets.

6. The World Tourism Organization agrees to transmit its proposed budgets to the United Nations not later than when the said budgets are transmitted to its members so as to enable the General Assembly of the United Nations to examine them and make recommendations, in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations.

7. Representatives of the World Tourism Organization shall be entitled to participate, without vote, in the deliberations of the General Assembly or any committee thereof established by it, at all times when the budget of the World Tourism Organization or general administrative or financial questions concerning the World Tourism Organization are under consideration.

Article 18
United Nations laissez-passer

Officials of the World Tourism Organization shall be entitled, in accordance with such special arrangements as may be concluded between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, to use laissez-passer of the United Nations.

Article 19
Implementation of the Agreement

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of this Agreement as may be found desirable.

Article 20
Amendment and revision

This Agreement may be amended or revised by agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization, and any such amendment or revision shall come into force on its approval by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization.

Article 21
Entry into force

This Agreement enters into force on its approval by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization.

2003/3
Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/201 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/201 of 21 December 2001 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and Council resolution 2002/29 of 25 July 2002,

Reiterating that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and multilateralism as well as their ability to respond to development needs in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Reaffirming and underscoring the collective commitment and political will of Member States to strengthening the role and capacity of the United Nations development system to assist developing countries in the implementation of the goals, targets and commitments set out in the Millennium Declaration[2] and by the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Stressing that national Governments have the primary responsibility for their countries' development, and recognizing the importance of national ownership of development programmes,

Reiterating the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system, in accordance with their respective mandates, to focus their efforts at the field level in accordance with the priorities identified by recipient countries and with the goals, targets and commitments set out in the Millennium Declaration and by the major United Nations conferences and summits,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/201,[3] on assessment of the lessons learned by United Nations organizations from evaluation activities at the field level[4] and on funding of development cooperation activities of the United Nations system;[5]

2. *Takes note also* of the request contained in resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 to invite the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as chair of the United Nations Development Group, to present, on a regular basis, to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment, the activities carried out by the United Nations Development Group related to the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

3. *Takes note further* of the progress made in the reform of the United Nations development system and calls for its continuation;

4. *Takes note* of the fact that most organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, are currently realigning their policies, strategies, programmes and activities on the basis of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, including through mechanisms such as multi-year strategic frameworks, where they exist, the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as in the context of their contribution to national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist;

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[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] E/2003/61.

[4] E/2003/64.

[5] E/2003/89.

Funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

5. *Reiterates* that regular/core resources, inter alia, because of their untied nature, are the bedrock of the operational activities of the United Nations and essential for the maintenance of the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of the United Nations development system;

6. *Notes with regret* that, although significant progress has been achieved with regard to the governance and functioning of the United Nations development system, there has not been, as part of that overall process of change, a significant increase in core resources for operational activities for development;

7. *Recognizes* that strengthening the role and capacity of the United Nations development system to assist countries in achieving their development goals requires continuing improvement in its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact, along with a significant increase in and expansion of its resource base on a continued, more predictable and assured basis;

8. *Invites* all United Nations funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies, to further explore possibilities to strengthen their resource base, including, as appropriate, through multi-year funding frameworks as resource management tools integrating programme objectives, results and resources;

9. *Calls upon* all donor countries and countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their contributions to the core/regular budgets of the United Nations development system, in particular the funds and programmes, and wherever possible, to contribute on a multi-year basis, and also stresses the need for further exploration of other sources of funding that could complement but should not replace traditional sources;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake further analytical work on the issue of funding, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session in the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review;

Capacity-building

11. *Reaffirms* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system at country level to focus on capacity-building as one of their primary objectives, within their respective mandates, and urges these organizations to: (a) support recipient Governments and other relevant stakeholders in devising country-level strategies for capacity-building in the pursuit of internationally agreed development goals; (b) intensify inter-agency information sharing at the system-wide level on good practices and experience gained, results achieved, benchmarks and indicators, monitoring and evaluation criteria concerning capacity-building, and reflect them in the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and (c) invite all organizations to include reporting on capacity-building in their annual reports to their respective governing bodies;

12. *Reiterates* that the United Nations development system should use, to the fullest extent possible and practical, national execution and available national expertise and technologies as the norm in the implementation of the operational activities;

Common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

13. *Requests* the United Nations development system and its country-level structures to continue their efforts to enhance the quality of the common country assessment, in particular its analytical aspects, and to strengthen the operational impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, including through inviting the active engagement of the specialized agencies and other partners, as appropriate, in the formulation and the use of these instruments, under the leadership of national Governments;

14. *Welcomes* efforts by the members of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group to explicitly link their programme support to national development goals and priorities, through the revised United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its results matrix, invites other United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to use the United Nations Development Assistance Framework results matrix, and requests that the matrix be submitted to the Executive Boards as an annex to the country programme;

15. *Requests* United Nations funds, programmes and the specialized agencies to continue to ensure the alignment and integration of their operational activities for development with national development efforts and priorities, through the active and full government participation and leadership at all stages of the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes, as well as broader involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

16. *Notes* the increased collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, and invites the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions to explore further ways to enhance cooperation, collaboration and coordination, including through greater harmonization of strategic frameworks, instruments, modalities and partnership arrangements, in full accordance with the priorities of the recipient Governments, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of ensuring, under the leadership of national authorities, greater consistency between the strategic frameworks developed by the United Nations funds, programmes, agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, and the national poverty reduction strategies, including the poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist;

17. *Notes also* the efforts of the United Nations Development Group to promote the role of the regional bureaux of the funds and programmes in assisting country teams in the preparation of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

18. *Encourages* the regional commissions to provide, when requested, their inputs for the preparation of those frameworks;

Evaluation of operational activities for development

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of monitoring and evaluation of operational activities of the United Nations system in order to enhance their effectiveness and impact, and calls upon the Secretary-General to integrate a stronger focus on lessons learned, results and outcomes in future reports;

20. *Stresses* the need to ensure the full participation of national authorities as well as the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the design, programming, implementation and evaluation processes, as well as in the drafting of the terms of reference, the development of methodologies and indicators and the selection of teams in all evaluation exercises conducted at the field level;

21. *Recommends* that the United Nations funds, programmes and the specialized agencies make systematic efforts to enhance the capacity for identifying, documenting and synthesizing lessons learned from evaluation activities in order to retain and absorb their results, ensure their dissemination, in particular at the country level, by placing the evaluation reports in the public domain using the Internet, and use evaluations findings and lessons learned in the design and implementation of programmes and projects, and also recommends that they assist national efforts to create country-level repositories of evaluation findings and lessons learned that are relevant in each national context, supporting the use of information and communications technology, national databases of lessons learned from evaluation, the development of analysis, documentation, distillation and synthesis of those lessons learned and promoting the development of publications and the use of other means of communication;

22. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system to make additional efforts to promote the development of national evaluation capacities, including capacities to make use of lessons learned from past United Nations activities that are relevant in each national context, and encourages them to communicate findings of evaluation activities and disseminate corresponding lessons learned to national entities, also, as appropriate through a more frequent use of local national languages;

23. *Recommends* that all organizations of the United Nations development system consider lessons learned and their dissemination as a specific required component of their activities and designate those responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the lessons learned process both at Headquarters and at the country level;

24. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations development system to encourage country teams to make greater use of lessons learned from evaluations in the preparation of the common country assessment, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, individual country programmes and other relevant country documents and to encourage enhanced country-level absorption of lessons learned, including through the intensification of activities such as joint evaluations, as appropriate under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework umbrella, of programmes and joint support to national databases of lessons learned from evaluation;

Simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures on operational activities

25. *Welcomes* progress made by the members of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group in the harmonization and simplification of rules and procedures, and requests the United Nations funds and programmes to enhance and accelerate their simplification and harmonization efforts to ensure full implementation of the programme of work submitted in 2002 before the end of 2004;

26. *Requests* that efforts be undertaken across the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, to make progress in all the areas of simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures at the field level, taking into account efforts and ongoing initiatives by bilateral donors and multilateral development banks, with the ultimate intent of reducing transaction costs, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency in aid delivery and enhancing government ownership of development processes through better coordination and management of external assistance;

27. *Requests* the funds and programmes of the United Nations system, through their Executive Boards, to include in their programmes of work the harmonization and simplification of recovery policies for non-core resources contributions;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in due consultation with the funds and programmes, through the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, to submit to the next substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2004, a report on the assessment of the value added of the joint meetings of the Executive Boards and their impact on the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council and to make recommendations as appropriate;

Common premises and shared services

29. *Encourages* the members of the United Nations Development Group to continue their efforts in the area of common premises, shared services and joint offices, with the objective of ensuring higher quality and cost effectiveness of country-level functioning of the United Nations system;

Resident coordinator system

30. *Reiterates* the need for greater participation by the specialized and technical agencies in the functioning of the resident coordinator system, encouraging all the organizations of the United Nations system to set in place innovative and collaborative ways to enable the resident coordinator system to tap, to an even greater degree, into the wealth of expertise in those areas that are relevant to support national efforts towards internationally agreed development goals;

31. *Also reiterates* the need to increase the number of women resident coordinators;

32. *Encourages* the resident coordinators to continue to work closely with the country representatives of individual agencies, including the World Bank and other relevant partners, in order to ensure effective coordination and collaboration under the leadership of national authorities, including in post-conflict situations;

33. *Requests* the United Nations Development Group and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs to continue their efforts to provide a coordinated response to the needs of countries in transition from relief to development;

34. *Encourages* the resident coordinator system to facilitate the formulation and use of integrated and flexible approaches in complex emergency and post-conflict situations, ensuring that all relevant partners, including those outside the

United Nations system, are involved under the leadership and with the fullest involvement of the Government, wherever possible;

Gender mainstreaming in operational activities

35. *Calls* on the organizations of the United Nations system to improve their gender mainstreaming efforts in operational activities of the United Nations system in all fields, including in support of poverty eradication, reiterating that the empowerment of women is a development priority, and to strengthen their efforts in support of the development of national capacities to improve the status of women in the context of development and poverty eradication policies;

South-South cooperation/economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

36. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects and to intensify efforts towards mainstreaming the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries, including through support for the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and encourages other relevant international institutions to take similar measures;

Guidelines for the next triennial comprehensive policy review

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to focus the analysis for the triennial comprehensive policy review in 2004, in the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, on:

(a) Assessment of the assistance that the United Nations development system provides to developing countries in order to support their efforts to pursue poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development;

(b) Integration of operational activities for development of the United Nations system with national efforts and priorities;

(c) Identification of measures for further improvement in coherence and efficiency of the United Nations system at the country level;

(d) Harmonization and simplification processes, further identifying possible areas for an agenda for 2004-2007;

(e) Identification of ways to enhance capacity-building in order to assist developing countries to pursue poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development;

(f) Adequacy of the United Nations development funding, in the light of the challenges that internationally agreed development goals present to the developing countries and the international community, and to make recommendations accordingly, and the identification of ways to ensure adequate funding for operational activities in this context;

(g) Adequacy of human resources and necessary skills available at the country level within the United Nations system to support national efforts and priorities;

(h) Effectiveness of the reforms of the operational activities of the United Nations in improving development results and outcomes and increasing the coherence, efficiency and quality of programming at the country level, ensuring in this regard that particular attention is paid to the contribution of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the associated results matrix in improving operational effectiveness;

(i) Contribution of the Millennium Development Goals[6] as a framework to support the alignment of the operational activities of the United Nations system with national development efforts and priorities;

(j) Results identified, outcomes and lessons learned at the country level from evaluation activities.

30th plenary meeting
11 July 2003

2003/4
World Solidarity Fund

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 55/210 of 20 December 2000, 56/207 of 21 December 2001 and 57/265 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[7] adopted on 8 September 2000 by heads of State and Government,

Recalling further the Monterrey Consensus,[8] adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[9] as well as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[10] adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the note of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund;[11]

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[6] Internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

[7] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[8] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[9] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex.

[10] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[11] A/58/72-E/2003/53.

2. *Endorses* the decision of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish the World Solidarity Fund to eradicate poverty and to promote social and human development in the developing countries, while stressing the voluntary nature of the contributions and the need to avoid duplication of existing United Nations funds and encouraging the role of the private sector and individual citizens relative to Governments in funding the endeavours, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

3. *Recognizes* the important potential contribution of the World Solidarity Fund to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,[12] in particular the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day and the proportion of the people who suffer from hunger;

4. *Takes note* of the setting up, in February 2003 of the World Solidarity Fund as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme, subject to the financial rules and regulations as adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund;

5. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to contribute to the World Solidarity Fund;

6. *Requests* in this regard the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take further measures to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund by establishing on an urgent basis the high-level committee whose task it is to define the strategy of the Fund, inter alia, to mobilize the financial resources to enable it to start its activities in the field of poverty alleviation;

7. *Also requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take all necessary measures to publicize the World Solidarity Fund and to raise awareness of its existence among the public and private sectors as well as civil society;

8. *Invites* developing countries, as soon as resources are made available to the Fund, to identify indicative projects to be submitted for financing by the World Solidarity Fund and requests the United Nations Development Programme to cooperate with national authorities in this regard;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to request the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a progress report on the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2004.

31st plenary meeting
11 July 2003

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[12] Internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

2003/5
Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, recalling that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution and recognizing other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/32 of 26 July 2002 and General Assembly resolution 57/153 of 16 December 2002,

Recognizing that the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations,

Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing the importance of the discussion of humanitarian policies and activities in the Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the fact that at the humanitarian affairs segment of 2003 the Economic and Social Council considered the theme "Strengthening of the coordination of the United Nations humanitarian assistance, with particular attention to humanitarian financing and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and the transition from relief to development" and that the Council held a panel, within the framework of the theme, on "Responding to the effects of HIV/AIDS and other widespread diseases on humanitarian relief operations",

Emphasizing the importance of continued international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected States in dealing with natural disasters and complex emergencies in all their phases,

Reiterating that humanitarian assistance should be provided in a way that is not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development,

Welcoming positive developments towards the resolution of some long-standing conflicts while remaining deeply concerned about the outbreak of new conflicts and the protracted nature of other conflicts,

Noting with grave concern the growing intensity and recurrence of natural disasters and reaffirming the importance of sustainable measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards using an integrated, multi-hazard and participatory approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery,

Taking note of the 2003 "Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support United Nations Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies"[13] as well as of the 1994 "Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief",[14]

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[13] See http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf.

Bearing in mind the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,[15]

Expressing grave concern about the tragic loss of lives of humanitarian staff while providing humanitarian assistance and the increased insecurity encountered by humanitarian staff as well as the acts of violence committed against them, in particular deliberate attacks, and mindful of the need to provide the fullest possible protection for their security,

Recalling the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[16] which was adopted on 17 July 1998 and entered into force on 1 July 2002, and noting the role that the Court could play in appropriate cases in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Bearing in mind that reaching the vulnerable is essential for providing adequate protection and assistance in context of natural disasters and complex emergencies as well as for strengthening local capacity to cope with humanitarian needs in such contexts,

Noting the grave humanitarian and development implications of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic and other widespread major infectious diseases prevalent in humanitarian context, such as malaria, tuberculosis and cholera, on the affected countries,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;[17]

Humanitarian developments and challenges

2. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law;

3. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

4. *Urges* the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian and other assistance to civilians under foreign occupation;

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[14] Department of Humanitarian Affairs publication, DHA/94/95.

[15] A/CONF.179/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[16] *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June-17 July 1998*, vol. I: *Final documents* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

[17] A/58/89-E/2003/85.

5. *Urges* all States to take necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel;

6. *Strongly condemns* any act, or failure to act, contrary to international law, which obstructs or prevents humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel from discharging their humanitarian functions;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as supplies and equipment, in order to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

8. *Strongly urges* States to ensure that those responsible for attacks against humanitarian staff are promptly brought to justice, as provided by national law and obligations under international law, and notes the need for States to end impunity for such acts;

9. *Notes* that an increasing number of States, United Nations organizations and regional and non-governmental organizations are making use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[18] encourages the strengthening of legal frameworks for the protection of internally displaced persons, and urges the international community to strengthen its support to affected States in their efforts to provide, through national plans or initiatives, protection and assistance to their internally displaced persons;

10. *Stresses* the continued need and relevance of integrating, through implementation of existing policies, commitments and guidelines on gender mainstreaming, a gender perspective in the planning, programming and implementation of humanitarian assistance activities;

11. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee of the six core principles in the Plan of Action on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises,[19] representing minimum standards of behaviour required of all United Nations civilian staff members, and urges the United Nations to take appropriate follow-up action in response to allegations of sexual violence and exploitation by humanitarian workers;

12. *Encourages* Governments as well as international humanitarian organizations, as appropriate, to take further initiatives to prevent, address and follow up on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian emergencies, and emphasizes that the highest standards of conduct and accountability are required of all personnel serving in humanitarian and peacekeeping operations;

13. *Stresses* the need to strengthen institutional capacity at all levels as well as disaster risk reduction programmes, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to minimize vulnerabilities and

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[18] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

[19] See http://www.unicef.org/media/publications/iasctfplanofaction.pdf.

disaster risks as well as to avoid or to limit adverse impact of natural hazards within the broad context of sustainable development;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations Development Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to continue to strengthen their coordination with the view, inter alia, to advancing the implementation of provisions of vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development;[20]

15. *Encourages* humanitarian agencies to ensure, to the extent possible, the participation of those affected by humanitarian situations in the design, implementation and evaluation of humanitarian assistance activities, while respecting the role of authorities of affected countries;

16. *Recalling* paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter, invites the United Nations organizations to enhance geographical balance in terms of humanitarian personnel employed by them;

17. *Stresses* the need for increased national and regional capacity-building in early warning and monitoring of natural hazards, natural disaster preparedness, mitigation and response, including through strengthening coordination in the areas of information sharing and analysis, logistics support, response coordination and strengthening enhanced relationships with existing regional structures, and encourages the international community to provide necessary technical assistance to States in this regard;

18. *Welcomes* the convening of the Second International Conference on Early Warning: Integration of the Early Warning Process into Public Policy, which is to be held from 16 to 18 October 2003 in Bonn, Germany, under the auspices of the United Nations;

19. *Encourages* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere, Finland, on 18 June 1998;

20. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 on strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance, and welcomes the work that is being undertaken to further strengthen the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance;

21. *Affirms* the leading role of civilian organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance, particularly in areas affected by conflicts, and also affirms the need, in situations where military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, that their use be in conformity with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles;

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[20] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

22. *Urges* States to implement outcomes and commitments of United Nations conferences on the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic as well as other major infectious diseases, including malaria and tuberculosis, with particular focus on the time-bound targets related to those diseases in complex emergencies and natural disaster-affected countries and regions;

23. *Recognizes* the important role of humanitarian agencies in addressing human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other major infectious diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis and cholera, in emergencies, and urges them to factor considerations pertaining to these major infectious diseases into their planning and coordination efforts, including in the areas of early warning and contingency planning;

24. *Calls upon* humanitarian and development organizations to strengthen their cooperation, between themselves and with Governments of affected States, in order to ensure that the longer-term developmental implications of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic and of the other major infectious diseases are adequately addressed in emergency situations;

Transition from relief to development

25. *Takes note* of the work in progress by the United Nations system to clarify the role of the United Nations in post-conflict transition situations;

26. *Reiterates* that emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will support recovery and long-term development;

27. *Also reiterates* the need to address the strategic planning gap between relief and development activities in the context of natural disasters and complex emergencies;

28. *Notes with concern* the disturbing trend of low or late funding for rehabilitation programmes aimed at helping affected communities to attain self-sufficiency;

29. *Recognizes* that, inter alia, early engagement in planning, fuller coverage of the needs of all sectors, more support for recovery and long-term development activities, capacity-building at all relevant levels and enhancement of national ownership is critical to managing the transition from relief to development;

30. *Reiterates* the need for coordinated humanitarian assistance and adequate financial resources to ensure ongoing capacity for prompt, timely and effective response by the United Nations system to natural disasters and other emergencies, both for immediate relief and also for the smooth transition between relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term sustainable development;

31. *Stresses* the importance of addressing, based on need, the situation of the least developed countries affected by conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian situations and of improving their institutional capacity and providing adequate support for rehabilitation, reconstruction, long-term sustainable development, poverty reduction and, where appropriate, peace-building efforts of least developed countries emerging from those situations;

32. *Recognizes* that the need for coordination increases and becomes more complex in post-conflict transition, and encourages States and the United Nations system, as appropriate, to enhance their efforts towards the early assumption of the coordination role of the Government as well as integrated coordination, including information management, inclusive planning, donor coordination, strengthening the United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the full participation of concerned Governments in needs assessment, planning mechanisms and coordination processes;

33. *Stresses* the need to consider the issue of the transition from relief to development in an integrated manner at a substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in the near future, in view of the importance of getting humanitarian and development organizations, including international and regional financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, to discuss the implications of these situations more fully in their programming;

Humanitarian financing and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance

34. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of States, first and foremost, to take care of the victims of humanitarian emergencies within their own borders, while recognizing that the magnitude and duration of many emergencies may be beyond the response capacity of many affected countries;

35. *Recognizes* the role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations as well as other humanitarian actors to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of their humanitarian activities, including by:

(a) Enhancing their commitment to system-wide coordination both at Headquarters and in the field;

(b) Strengthening efforts to report on results, activities and financial matters, including to donors, in a timely and comprehensive manner, and, where possible, to strive for harmonized reporting, bearing in mind specific requirements of donors;

(c) Developing further methods for monitoring and evaluation, including independent evaluations;

(d) Maximizing the portion of humanitarian assistance contributions that directly benefits people in need;

(e) Addressing mutual safety and security concerns at the field level;

36. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to improve and increase consistency in the way in which humanitarian needs are assessed, inter alia, by:

(a) Enhancing the quality, accuracy and transparency of needs assessments;

(b) Agreeing upon minimum standards in order to properly assess needs;

(c) Including States and other humanitarian actors in assessment missions;

(d) Addressing all humanitarian needs;

(e) Taking into account safety and security of humanitarian personnel;

(f) Undertaking joint agency assessments;

37. *Urges* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to further develop the global humanitarian financial tracking system and to refine the comprehensive system for the collection and dissemination of data on humanitarian needs and contributions;

38. *Encourages* the donor community to improve its response to humanitarian emergencies through policies and practices of good donorship, along with mechanisms for their review, and welcomes steps taken in that direction;

39. *Encourages* the donor community to provide humanitarian assistance in proportion to needs and on the basis of needs assessments, with a view to ensuring a more equitable distribution of humanitarian assistance across humanitarian emergencies, including those of a protracted nature, as well as fuller coverage of the needs of all sectors;

40. *Encourages* the donor community to establish reliable, predictable and timely funding to meet humanitarian needs and to consider increasing the flexibility of funding and the share of non-earmarked contributions to United Nations agencies in response to humanitarian emergencies, including within the consolidated appeals;

41. *Encourages* donors to consider taking steps to harmonize reporting requirements, based on United Nations standards for financial reporting, as well as to enhance reporting to the financial tracking system;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Council and the General Assembly on the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

35th plenary meeting
15 July 2003

2003/6

The role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

The Economic and Social Council,

1. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields";

2. *Decides* to take the necessary steps for the effective implementation of the provisions of resolution 57/270 B that are relevant to the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery and to keep this implementation under review;

3. *Welcomes* the request by the General Assembly for the establishment of a multi-year work programme for the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council, based on a focused and balanced list of cross-sectoral thematic issues common to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and

summits, including the objectives, goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration;[21]

4. *Expresses*, in this regard, its determination to finalize the list of cross-sectoral thematic issues and the multi-year work programme for its coordination segment, with the aim of reaching a decision before the substantive session of 2004, and in this regard invites the Bureau to initiate informal consultations by January 2004;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits,[22] and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to update the report and its recommendations in the light of resolution 57/270 B and to submit it for consideration by the Council at its next substantive session.

36th plenary meeting
16 July 2003

2003/7

Admission of Timor-Leste as a full member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that Timor-Leste became a Member of the United Nations on 27 September 2002,

Also noting that, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Timor-Leste shall thereupon be admitted as a member of the Commission,

Decides to amend paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly.

40th plenary meeting
18 July 2003

2003/8

Consideration of the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a United Nations Arabic language centre

The Economic and Social Council,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999 concerning the pattern of conferences,

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[21] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[22] E/2003/67.

Referring also to the requests and suggestions put forward to the Secretariat of the United Nations by the delegations of Arab States Members of the United Nations concerning Arabic language services and, in particular, to the proposal of the delegation of Egypt that is set forth in annex II to the Report of the Committee on Conferences[23] and the letter dated 31 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, written in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of July 2001, concerning multilingualism,[24]

Recognizing the importance of the coordinating role that could be played by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, given that it is located in the Arab region, with respect to strengthening Arabic language services in the United Nations system in close cooperation with United Nations Headquarters Arabic translation and editorial services and benefiting from the high level of expertise in the region,

1. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to consider the establishment of a United Nations Arabic language centre, based at the Commission, of which the objective, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the United Nations, and taking into consideration the requisite technical, financial and administrative needs, shall be to raise the technical and linguistic level of the Arabic terminology used in United Nations documents, in order to facilitate the use of the Arabic language in such documents;

2. *Also calls upon* the secretariat of the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the United Nations, to undertake the establishment of a committee responsible for determining the competencies of the aforementioned centre;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to follow up implementation of this resolution and to submit a report on the progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-third session.

40th plenary meeting
18 July 2003

2003/9
Establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a committee on women

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the importance of action relating to the empowerment of women and the improvement of their status, and of making available equal opportunities for their empowerment and increased participation at all levels of the development process,

Aware also of the importance of coordination with regard to the empowerment of women and of respect for the particularities, customs and culture of each Arab country in order to harmonize Arab positions at global conferences and in the follow-up to global conferences organized by the United Nations, with a view to incorporating the regional dimension in international documents,

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[23] A/49/32/Rev.1.

[24] A/56/261.

Affirming the importance of the involvement of the interested parties in member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the planning, development and follow-up to implementation of secretariat programmes relating to the empowerment of women and of mainstreaming the gender perspective in activities and policies,

Guided by the action taken by the other United Nations regional commissions that have established special committees on women,

Taking into consideration the recommendation made by the Committee on Social Development[25] of the Commission at its fourth session, held in Beirut from 3 to 5 July 2002, concerning the establishment within the Commission of a committee on women,

1. *Decides* to establish within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia a committee on women comprising representatives of member countries who are specialists in women's issues, to be responsible for the following:

(a) Identifying the women-related priorities of the programmes of work and medium-term plans of the Commission;

(b) Monitoring developments with respect to the status of women and evaluating indicators and statistics with a view to formulating an integrated policy for the advancement and empowerment of women;

(c) Monitoring the progress made in women-related activities of the Commission secretariat;

(d) Following up global and regional conferences and the participation of member countries therein and coordinating the endeavours of member countries and regional organizations with regard to implementation of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at such conferences;

(e) Coordinating action at the regional level towards the adoption of unified positions on the issue at international gatherings and in follow-up to the performance by member countries of the undertakings to which they made a commitment in human rights instruments concerning women;

(f) Preparing and implementing field projects for the advancement and empowerment of women in member countries of the Commission and finding the necessary funding for such projects;

(g) According the requisite importance to women in the regions, in which wars and conflicts are prevalent, and in particular to Palestinian women, who are suffering in the conditions in which the Palestinian people is living under continuing Israeli occupation;

2. *Also decides* that the Committee on Women shall hold its sessions biennially, with effect from 2004, and that an inaugural session should be held before the end of 2003;

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[25] See *Report on the Fourth Session of the Committee on Social Development* (E/ESCWA/SD/2002/IG.1/9).

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to establish a women's centre within the secretariat of the Commission with responsibility for acting as the secretariat of the Committee on Women;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up implementation of this resolution and to submit a report on the matter to the Commission at its twenty-third session.

40th plenary meeting
18 July 2003

2003/10

Preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 45/133 of 14 December 1990, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001 and 57/164 of 18 December 2002 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994 and its tenth anniversary in 2004,

"*Recognizing* that the tenth anniversary of the Year constitutes an important opportunity to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of efforts at all levels to carry out specific programmes within the framework of the objectives of the Year,

"*Recognizing also* that 2004 is to be viewed as a target year by which time concrete achievements will have been produced with respect to identifying and elaborating issues of direct concern to families and mechanisms will have been set up to plan and coordinate activities by the appropriate governmental and non-governmental bodies and agencies,

"*Emphasizing* that equality between women and men and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child,

"*Noting with satisfaction* the close collaboration of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the family field, as well as its research efforts and preparations for the tenth anniversary of the Year,

"*Appreciating* the active role of the regional commissions in the preparatory process of the tenth anniversary, particularly in facilitating regional cooperation in that regard, "*Recalling* that one plenary meeting will be devoted at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, to the observance of the tenth anniversary of the Year, building upon the events to be held on 15 May 2004 on the occasion of the International Day of Families,

"1. *Encourages* Governments to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and to integrate a family perspective in the planning process;

"2. *Recalls* its invitation to all States to set the end of 2003 as a target date for finalizing a programme for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the Year;

"3. *Also recalls* its invitation to Governments that had not already done so to set up national coordinating committees or similar mechanisms, as appropriate, for the anniversary, and invites them, as well as the Governments of countries with existing bodies responsible for preparations and observance, to intensify preparatory measures already under way;

"4. *Recommends* that all relevant actors, including Governments, civil society, including relevant non-governmental organizations, and research and academic institutions, contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening the livelihood of families;

"5. *Encourages* United Nations agencies and bodies, including the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research and academic institutions, to work closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in a coordinated manner on family-related issues, inter alia, by sharing experience and findings, in recognition of their valuable role in family policy development at all levels;

"6. *Recalls* its invitation to the Secretary-General to launch the tenth anniversary of the Year in early December 2003;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-ninth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the final preparations for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the Year at all levels."

42nd plenary meeting
21 July 2003

2003/11
Policies and programmes involving youth

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[26] and recognizing that the Declaration includes important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

Recalling and reaffirming the commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits held since 1990 and their follow-up processes,

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[26] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations as well as other relevant international instruments,

Reaffirming the obligation of States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and their full enjoyment by young people,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;[27]

2. *Reaffirms* that the ten priority areas identified in the Programme of Action, namely, education, employment, hunger and poverty, health issues, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure, girls and young women, and youth participation, remain areas of crucial importance;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of the five issues of concern to young people identified in the report of the Secretary-General, namely, the mixed impact of globalization on young women and men; the use of and access to information and communication technologies; the dramatic increase of human immunodeficiency virus infections among young people and the impact of the epidemic on their lives; the active involvement of young people in armed conflict, both as victims and as perpetrators; and the increased importance of addressing intergenerational issues in an ageing society;

4. *Also recognizes* the importance of the full and effective participation of youth and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation, and the need to support the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights but different needs and strengths and are active agents for decision-making processes, positive change and development in society;

5. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make every possible effort towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, aiming at cross-sectoral youth policies by integrating a youth perspective into all planning and decision-making processes relevant to youth;

6. *Recommends* that the United Nations system, on the basis of the positive experience of youth participation in the work of the United Nations, inter alia, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly on children, continue to provide opportunities for dialogue between Governments and representatives of youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through forums, open-ended dialogues, meetings and debates;

7. *Also recommends* that the convening of a future world youth forum be based on an intergovernmental decision emanating from the General Assembly;

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[27] E/CN.5/2003/4.

8. *Invites* the General Assembly to consider devoting, at its sixtieth session, in 2005, two plenary meetings to reviewing the situation of youth and achievements produced in the implementation of the Programme of Action ten years after its adoption;

9. *Also invites* the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to provide the Assembly, at its sixtieth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session, with a comprehensive report on the priority areas of youth identified in the Programme of Action, calling upon the experience of the Member States, organizations, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions, and youth organizations, in their multidisciplinary work for and with youth;

10. *Further invites* the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General, in preparing the report requested in paragraph 9 above, to take into account the five concerns identified in paragraph 3 above.

42nd plenary meeting
21 July 2003

2003/12

Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling relevant provisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and their respective follow-up reviews, for the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities on an equal and participatory basis,

Encouraged by the increased interest of the international community in the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities under a comprehensive and integral approach,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination, and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/229 of 18 December 2002, in which the Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its first session[28] and reaffirmed the need to promote and protect the equal and effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, aware of the contribution that a convention could make in that regard and thus convinced of the need to continue to consider proposals,

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[28] See A/57/357.

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/7 of 24 July 2002 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

Stressing the primary responsibility of Governments in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and their full enjoyment by persons with disabilities,

Welcoming the work of national, regional and international meetings of Governments, experts and non-governmental organizations that contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, including the regional initiatives taken previous to the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[29] on the fourth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[30]

Stressing the need for additional efforts to ensure accessibility with reasonable accommodation regarding facilities and documentation at the United Nations for all persons with disabilities, in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/474 of 23 July 2002,

Deeply concerned about the disadvantaged and vulnerable situation faced by six hundred million persons with disabilities around the world,

1. *Acknowledges* the contributions of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to the process established by the General Assembly in resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to contribute to this process in accordance with Assembly resolution 57/229 of 18 December 2002;

2. *Also acknowledges* the contributions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to the process established by the General Assembly in resolution 56/168, and encourages them to continue to contribute to this process;

3. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to contribute to the process established by the General Assembly in resolution 56/168 by, inter alia, providing its views regarding the social development of persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the experience in the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[31] and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[30]

4. *Invites* bodies, organs and entities of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, particularly those working in the fields of social and economic development and human rights, within their respective mandates, as well as non-governmental organizations, national disability and human

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[29] A/58/61-E/2003/5.

[30] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (iv).

[31] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

rights institutions and independent experts with an interest in the matter, to make available to the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities suggestions and possible elements to be considered in proposals for a convention;

5. *Encourages* the relevant bodies of the United Nations to continue to promote and support the active participation of civil society, including interested non-governmental organizations, in the process established by the General Assembly in resolution 56/168, in accordance with Assembly resolutions 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and 57/229, and requests the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to the community of non-governmental organizations all available information on accreditation procedures as well as information on supportive measures and modalities for their participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

6. *Invites* Governments, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular from the least developed countries, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

7. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening the United Nations Programme on Disability in order to provide support to the Ad Hoc Committee, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/229.

42nd plenary meeting
21 July 2003

2003/13

National and international cooperation for social development: implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to conduct, during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda[32] and related initiatives on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the independent high-level quality evaluation, as well as on the basis of proposals by the Secretary-General on the modalities of the future engagement of the United

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[32] General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

Nations with the New Partnership for Africa's Development[33] and its resolution 56/508 of 27 June 2002,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[34] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002[35] and its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Welcoming the adoption of the chapter entitled "Sustainable development for Africa" in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[36]

Cognizant of the link between the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and of the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General of 20 June 1995[37] and 12 June 2001,[38] submitted to the high-level segments of the Economic and Social Council devoted to the consideration of the development of Africa,

Bearing in mind also that, while the primary responsibility for the development of Africa remains with African countries, the international community has a stake in that development and in supporting the efforts of those countries in that regard,

Underlining that international cooperation based on a spirit of partnership and solidarity among all countries contributes to creating an enabling environment conducive to the achievement of the goals of social development,

Recognizing the urgent need to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to diversify their economies as well as enhance capacity-building and promote regional cooperation,

Recognizing also the serious challenges facing social development in Africa, in particular illiteracy, poverty and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS),

1. *Emphasizes* that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

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[33] A/57/304, annex.

[34] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[35] See General Assembly resolution 57/2.

[36] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[37] E/1995/81.

[38] E/2001/83.

2. *Recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development;

4. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, inter alia, in a spirit of partnership, international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world";

5. *Also reaffirms* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society for the achievement of social development;

6. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's Development[33] as a programme of the African Union for peace and sustainable development that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples;

7. *Stresses* the need for renewed political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being so as to achieve the objectives of social development;

8. *Emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

9. *Also emphasizes* the New Partnership objectives of eradicating poverty in Africa and placing African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus facilitating Africa's participation in the globalization process;

10. *Underlines* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[39] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[40] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and the need for ensuring, in the framework of the New Partnership, their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national, regional and international levels;

11. *Welcomes with appreciation* actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of the New Partnership and, in this regard, urges the strengthening of that process as a means of enhancing the coordinated response of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership;

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[39] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8) chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[40] Ibid., annex II.

12. *Stresses*, in this context, the vital role of the United Nations in assisting Member States to achieve the development objectives and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[34] and to mainstream them in an integrated and coordinated manner in United Nations development activities;

13. *Welcomes* the commitment of African countries to peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management, as well as their commitment to taking concrete measures to strengthen mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution as embodied in the New Partnership, as an essential basis for sustainable development in Africa, and in this context welcomes the ongoing efforts of African countries to develop further the African peer review mechanism which is an important and innovative feature of the New Partnership;

14. *Recognizes* that illiteracy, poverty, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other major communicable diseases add challenges to Africa's development and urges the international community to continue to increase its assistance to African countries in their efforts to address these challenges;

15. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of partnership;

16. *Invites* the international financial institutions to ensure that their support for Africa is compatible with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership;

17. *Urges* the United Nations system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, inter alia, through close collaboration with bilateral donors in the implementation of the New Partnership in response to the needs of individual countries within the larger framework of the New Partnership;

18. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to invite the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, to consider how to support the objectives of Assembly resolution 57/7;

19. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in his efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, to enhance coordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system;

20. *Acknowledges* the reflection by the Secretary-General of the social dimensions of the New Partnership in his report on the priority theme for the forty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, "National and international cooperation for social development",[41] and invites him to continue to reflect those dimensions in future reports submitted to the Commission on its priority themes;

21. *Recommends* that the Commission for Social Development continue to give due prominence to the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its future priority themes;

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[41] E/CN.5/2003/5, and Corr.1.

22. *Decides* to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session during its consideration of the agenda item entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

42nd plenary meeting
21 July 2003

2003/14
Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the goals and targets in the economic, social and related fields contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[42] and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, supplemented by the outcomes of their reviews, constitute a comprehensive basis for actions at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002 and all previous Assembly resolutions on ageing and the International Year of Older Persons,

Recalling further the resolutions adopted by the Commission for Social Development on ageing and on the preparation of the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 57/167, the General Assembly invited the Commission to consider the modalities for reviews and appraisals of the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Bearing in mind also that the Commission is responsible for follow-up to and appraisal[43] of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[44] and that it should consider integrating into its work the different dimensions of population ageing as contained in the Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind further the work of the open-ended ad hoc working group of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, created under Assembly resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002,

1. *Invites* all actors at all levels, as appropriate, to participate in the implementation of and follow-up to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;[44]

2. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system to consider mainstreaming ageing issues into their work plans;

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[42] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[43] See E/CN.5/2003/7.

[44] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

3. *Invites* Members States and other stakeholders to mainstream ageing in the design and implementation of their policies and programmes;

4. *Invites* Governments as well as the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Plan of Action, through, inter alia, sharing of ideas, data collection and best practices;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session information on the implementation of the present resolution.

42nd plenary meeting
21 July 2003

2003/15

Agreed conclusions on national and international cooperation for social development

The Economic and Social Council

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission for Social Development with respect to its priority theme at its forty-first session:

1. The Commission stresses that national and international cooperation for social development should aim at solidarity, equality within and among countries, social justice, good governance at all levels, tolerance and full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. The Commission recognizes that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows and advances in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy and the development and improvement of living standards around the world. At the same time, there remain serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies. Considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy remain for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as for some countries with economies in transition. Unless the benefits of social and economic development are extended to all countries, a growing number of people in all countries and even entire regions will remain marginalized from the global economy. The Commission reiterates the need for immediate action in order to overcome those obstacles affecting peoples and countries and to realize the full potential of opportunities presented for the benefit of all. The Commission stresses that the social impact and dimension of globalization deserve further attention.

3. Globalization offers opportunities and challenges. The developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to those challenges and opportunities. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable, and there is a strong need for policies and measures at the national and international levels, formulated and implemented with the full and

effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to help them respond effectively to those challenges and opportunities.

4. In an increasingly globalizing world, renewed and effective partnerships between developed countries and developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, are required to achieve the internationally agreed social development objectives and commitments, including those adopted at the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives adopted at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and the internationally agreed development goals including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.[45]

5. The Commission welcomes the prominence given to the New Partnership for Africa's Development[46] in the report of the Secretary-General on national and international cooperation for social development[47] as an example of a partnership among Governments. It also recognizes that the objectives and action plans enunciated in the New Partnership are consistent with the internationally agreed development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as well as those spelled out in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[48] particularly its commitment seven on accelerating the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries, and the outcome document of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.[49]

6. The Commission invites the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to continue to include consideration of the integration of economic and social policies as one of the thematic areas to be addressed in future debates.

7. National capacity is one of the key factors in implementing social development policies and fulfilling national responsibilities. Each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. Enhanced international cooperation is essential to implement the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[50] as well as the further initiatives for social development and to address the challenges of globalization. In this regard, international cooperation has a vital role in assisting developing countries as well as some countries with economies in transition in the strengthening of their human, institutional and technological capacity. Without the building of such capacity, it will be difficult to ensure that social policy concerns are integrated within the policy planning and budgeting processes. The Commission therefore urges the international community to continue to assist developing countries in their capacity-building in order to promote social development.

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[45] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[46] A/57/304, annex.

[47] E/CN.5/2003/5 and Corr.1.

[48] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[49] General Assembly resolution S-24/2.

[50] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

8. Given the importance of education as a primary and critical component in any development strategy, in particular for the elimination of illiteracy, the Commission emphasizes the relevance of cooperation in educational matters at the national and international levels.

9. Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, demands a new partnership between developed and developing countries. In this context, the Commission stresses the importance of the commitment recently made by heads of State and Government to achieving sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, as well as to mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, promoting international trade as an engine for development, increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief, and enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

10. The Commission recognizes that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. To build support for official development assistance, heads of State and Government have pledged to further improve policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness.

11. In that context, the Commission urges developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards achieving the target of providing 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and from 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets. The Commission acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking an examination of the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals.

12. Recipient and donor countries, as well as international institutions, should strive to make official development assistance more effective.

13. The Commission underlines the responsibility of the private sector at the national and international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their responsibilities towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development including social development. In this context, the Commission emphasizes the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability.

14. Partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development. Within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can

contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals. At the international level, the recent initiatives towards building voluntary partnerships for social development should be encouraged and discussed further at, inter alia, the intergovernmental level.

15. Cross-sectoral and integrated policies that take into account the needs and interests of all members of society, as well as their contributions to national development, and that mainstream a gender perspective should be promoted.

16. The Commission calls upon all relevant development partners to give adequate attention to productive and sustainable employment, as appropriate, in their development policies. Employment strategies can have a substantial impact on poverty eradication, social development and gender equality and should be developed in harmony with economic growth strategies and structural reforms. The Commission sees the involvement of social partners in cooperating with Governments in the formulation and implementation of employment strategies as an important element in ensuring their success. The Commission stresses the need to design appropriate labour and employment policies that will support both growth with employment and employment that supports social development goals.

17. Fulfilment of sustainable development objectives should aim at ensuring, inter alia, quality employment and defending workers rights and interests and, to this effect, the Commission notes the need to promote respect for the relevant United Nations and International Labour Organization conventions.

18. The Commission encourages the strengthening of cooperation among countries, inter alia, to address the issues of labour-market information and skills standards certification as well as transnational issues on labour migration, with a view to protecting the rights and dignity of migrant workers.

19. The Commission stresses the necessity of ensuring the effective involvement of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process through, inter alia, greater participation in international economic forums, thereby ensuring the transparency and accountability of international financial institutions with respect to according a central position for social development in their policies and programmes.

20. The Commission notes the increasing operational coordination and cooperation achieved between the United Nations funds and programmes and the international financial institutions, while taking into account their respective competencies and mandates. In this context, the Commission invites the international financial institutions to strengthen further their efforts to ensure that an improved social outcome is incorporated into their programmes of assistance, taking into account the fact that poverty reduction strategies should be nationally owned. Where Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers exist, a broad platform is necessary to place them within a wider context where all social objectives would be adequately taken into account.

42nd plenary meeting
21 July 2003

2003/16
Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/1 of 15 July 2002 on the establishment of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict, in which the Council decided to consider creating, at the request of any African country emerging from conflict, a limited but flexible and representative ad hoc advisory group at the ambassadorial level, in consultation with all regional groups and the national authorities of the country concerned, drawn from the membership of the Economic and Social Council and its observer States, including representation from the country concerned, and in so doing to take into account the need to include countries that can make a positive contribution to the objectives of such a group,

Recalling also its decision 2002/302 of 4 October 2002, in which the Council decided to entrust the President of the Council with the holding of consultations regarding the modalities for establishing an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, and its decision 2002/304 of 25 October 2002, in which it established that Group,

Taking note of the letter dated 26 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council,[51] in which the authorities of Burundi requested the Council to set up an ad hoc advisory group on Burundi to study and assess the economic and humanitarian situation in this country, with a view to post-conflict reconstruction, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/1,

Taking note also of the report of the Security Council mission to Central Africa,[52] which visited Burundi from 12 to 14 June 2003, in which the mission expressed its satisfaction as to the peaceful transfer of power in Burundi,

Conscious of the need for providing adequate budgetary and economic support to the transitional Government, given the risk that all gains achieved thus far could collapse if such assistance was not provided immediately,

Urging donor countries to fulfil the commitments they made at the Paris and Geneva conferences on assistance to Burundi, and welcoming the convening of a donor round table organized by the Government of Burundi, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, scheduled for September 2003,

1. *Decides* to establish the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi;

2. *Also decides* to entrust the President of the Council with the task of holding consultations and making recommendations, within the framework outlined in its resolution 2002/1, on the composition, terms of reference and relevant modalities for the creation of the Group by the end of August 2003 so as to enable it to participate in the donor round table.

43rd plenary meeting
21 July 2003

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[51] E/2002/86.

[52] S/2003/653.

2003/17
Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[53] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[54]

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001 on the establishment of a regular sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

Recalling further its resolution 2002/33 of 26 July 2002 on the oral report of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General[55] on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[54]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action, and expresses its expectation of more vigorous implementation by all partners;

3. *Calls* on the Secretary-General, while stressing the central role of the Council in the coordination of actions in the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action, to take appropriate measures to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States so that it can fulfil its functions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/227;

4. *Urges* all Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites the international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations, to extend to the Office of the High Representative their full support for the fulfilment of its mandate, including through staffing support;

5. *Stresses* the need for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its annual assessment at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, recognizes in this regard the critical importance of the participation of the least developed countries in the assessment process of the Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to make, in consultation with Member States, recommendations to facilitate the participation of the delegations of the least developed countries at the annual substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

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[53] A/CONF.191/12.

[54] A/CONF.191/11.

[55] A/58/86-E/2003/81.

6. *Reiterates* that the Programme of Action offers a framework for partnership, based on mutual commitments by least developed countries and their development partners to undertake concrete actions in a number of interlinked areas set out in the Programme of Action;

7. *Calls* on least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to continue to fulfil their commitments and to promote the implementation of the actions contained in the Programme of Action by translating them into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, in particular poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, with the involvement of civil society, including the private sector, on the basis of a broad-based inclusive dialogue, as well as to continue to promote an enabling environment for the effective mobilization and utilization of resources consistent with paragraph 82 of the Programme of Action;

8. *Calls* on all development partners of the least developed countries, including multilateral financial institutions, to continue to fulfil their commitments regarding the effective and expeditious implementation of the Programme of Action, and urges the developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts to effectively implement their commitments on official development assistance to the least developed countries, as contained in paragraph 83 of the Programme of Action;

9. *Invites* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and all other international organizations, within their respective mandates, to support, as a priority, the implementation of the Programme of Action, including programmes of financial and technical cooperation devoted to least developed countries in support of their national development programmes, including their poverty reduction strategies;

10. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the United Nations and the Group of Eight to bridge the digital divide that has further marginalized the least developed countries, particularly in the area of information technology, calls on the international community to address the special needs of the least developed countries therein, and in this regard invites the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society to adopt concrete actions to bridge the digital divide in the least developed countries;

11. *Invites* the forthcoming Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003, to address the marginalization of the least developed countries in international trade and to adopt further measures to effectively integrate the least developed countries into the multilateral trading system and the global economy;

12. *Also invites* the members of the World Trade Organization to facilitate and accelerate accession to the organization for those least developed countries that are candidates by expeditiously implementing the guidelines to facilitate and accelerate the accession of the least developed countries to the World Trade Organization, which were adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 10 December 2002;[56]

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[56] WT/L/508.

13. *Calls* on the Secretary-General to submit his annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in such a way as to make it more analytical and results-oriented by putting greater emphasis on concrete results and indicating the progress achieved in its implementation.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/18
Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1994/24 of 26 July 1994, by which the Council created the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), and 2001/23 of 26 July 2001,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the Programme,[57]

Recalling the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[58] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in 2001, and the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000,[59]

Encouraged by the resolve of Governments to intensify implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS in order to meet the goals and targets contained therein,

Reaffirming the importance of the follow-up process prescribed by the Declaration, which included the setting of specific time-bound targets, which fall due in 2003, 2005 and 2010,

Noting with profound concern that 42 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS and that the HIV/AIDS pandemic claimed 3.1 million lives in 2002,

Expressing serious concern about the continued global spread of HIV/AIDS, which exacerbates poverty and poses a major threat to economic and social development and to food security in heavily affected regions,

Welcoming the establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the memorandum of understanding concluded between the Programme and the Global Fund,

Acknowledging other national, bilateral and multilateral resources available to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the need to mobilize additional resources,

1. *Urges* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to intensify their support to Governments, with a view to achieving the goals contained in the United Nations

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[57] E/2003/66.

[58] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[59] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Millennium Declaration,[59] as well as the goals and targets contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;[58]

2. *Encourages* Governments to participate in the high-level plenary meetings and informal interactive panel discussion of the General Assembly, which are to be held on 22 September 2003, and which will be devoted to the follow-up of the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session of the Assembly and the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

3. *Welcomes* the decisions of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS, taken in response to the five-year evaluation of the Programme, which set out five cross-cutting functions to apply at all levels of the Programme, namely: (a) leadership and advocacy for effective action on the epidemic; (b) strategic information required to guide the efforts of the partners; (c) tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the epidemic and actions responding to it; (d) civil society engagement and partnership development; and (e) financial, technical and political resources mobilization;

4. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Programme Coordinating Board calling for significantly increased efforts and resources in the unified budget and work plan devoted to scaling up the response to HIV/AIDS at the country level;

5. *Commends* the Programme as a positive example of collaborative action of the United Nations system, and encourages the further refinement of the work of the Programme;

6. *Invites* the Chairperson of the Programme Coordinating Board to continue consultations with the members of the Board and with Observer States in order to further improve the working methods of the Programme, its subcommittees and ad hoc working groups, with a view to further enhancing participation in the work of the Programme;

7. *Calls upon* the Chairperson of the United Nations Development Group to ensure, through the resident coordinators, the inclusion of the country coordinators of the Programme as members of United Nations country teams, in order to strengthen United Nations coordination in the fight against HIV/AIDS at the country level, and to mobilize intensified assistance to Governments in mounting and sustaining effective responses to HIV/AIDS;

8. *Invites* the governing bodies of the co-sponsoring organizations of the Programme, as well as the Programme Coordinating Board, to develop closer links and more effective coordination in order to ensure that clear and effective guidance is provided to the secretariat of the Programme and to co-sponsoring organizations, including through the annual consideration by the governing body of each sponsoring organization of its engagement in the Programme;

9. *Urges* Governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, civil society, the private sector and other partners to increase their funding for HIV/AIDS-related activities, including funding of the unified budget and work plan of the Programme, in order to ensure a level of financial and other resources that are fully commensurate with the multisectoral challenges of the epidemic;

10. *Encourages* the Programme to continue to foster efficient and effective cooperation with financing mechanisms, such as the World Bank Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Programme and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and

Malaria, bearing in mind the complementarity of the role of those mechanisms, based on their respective comparative advantages;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2005, a report prepared by the Executive Director of the Programme, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, which should include information on progress made in developing the coordinated response of the United Nations system to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as the decisions, recommendations and conclusions of the Programme Coordinating Board taken subsequent to the substantive session of the Council in 2003.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/19
World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001 and 57/238 of 20 December 2002, related in particular to the launching of the preparatory process of the World Summit on the Information Society, which will be held in two phases, in Geneva, from 10 to 12 December 2003, and in Tunis, from 16 to 18 November 2005,

Welcoming the progress achieved in the preparatory process of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Taking note of the contribution of the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to the preparatory process of the Summit,

Encouraging all countries to continue to support the preparatory process,

Encouraging also civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to further contribute to the preparations for the Summit,

Reaffirming the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology for promoting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[60] and to find effective and innovative ways to put this potential at the service of development for all,

Reaffirming also the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, in particular with regard to access to and transfer of technology, especially information and communication technologies and services, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Reaffirming further the need to harness synergies and to create cooperation among the various information and communication technologies initiatives, at both the regional and global levels, currently being undertaken or planned to promote and foster the potential of information and communication technologies for development by other international organizations and civil society,

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[60] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society;[61]

2. *Takes note also* of the results of the first two meetings of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, held in Geneva from 1 to 5 July 2002 and from 17 to 28 February 2003;

3. *Welcomes* the holding of the regional preparatory conferences in Bamako, from 25 to 30 May 2002, in Bucharest, from 7 to 9 November 2002, in Tokyo, from 13 to 15 January 2003, in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, from 29 to 31 January 2003, in Beirut, from 4 to 6 February 2003, and in Cairo from 16 to 18 June 2003;

4. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional institutions, as well as the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, to intensify their work in the preparatory process of the Summit;

5. *Invites* countries to be represented at the highest political level at the two phases of the Summit;

6. *Encourages* civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute further to and actively participate in the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit, and in the Summit itself, according to the modalities of participation established by the Preparatory Committee;

7. *Requests* the International Telecommunication Union, in the context of its role in the preparatory process for the Summit, in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and other information offices of the United Nations system, to intensify its public information campaign to raise global awareness of the Summit, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions;

8. *Invites* the international community to continue providing extrabudgetary resources, in particular through voluntary contributions, to the special trust fund established by the International Telecommunication Union to support the preparations for and the holding of the two phases of the Summit and to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the third meeting of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, which is to be held in Geneva from 15 to 26 September 2003, as well as in future meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the two phases of the Summit.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

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[61] See A/58/74-E/2003/58.

2003/20
Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,[62]

"*Taking note* of guideline 8, 'Special measures for the protection and support of child victims of trafficking', contained in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[63]

"*Recalling* the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[64] and noting the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[65]

"*Recalling also* International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 of 1999, concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, which prohibits forced or obligatory labour of all people under the age of eighteen,

"*Recalling further* paragraphs 25 and 27 of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century,[66]

"*Recalling* its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[67] and in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[68]

"*Condemning* trafficking in persons as an abhorrent form of modern-day slavery and as an act that is contrary to universal human rights,

"*Decrying* the treatment of human beings as commodities bartered, bought or sold by traffickers, in particular exploiters,

"*Deeply concerned* at the worldwide occurrence of trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation of all kinds by transnational organized criminal groups, many of which are also involved in other forms of illegal activity, including trafficking in firearms, money-laundering, drug trafficking and corruption,

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[62] General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

[63] E/2002/68/Add.1.

[64] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[65] General Assembly resolution 54/263, annex II.

[66] General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex.

[67] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

[68] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II.

"*Profoundly alarmed* at the fact that trafficking in persons is a growing and profitable trade in most parts of the world, aggravated by, inter alia, poverty, armed conflict, inadequate social and economic conditions and demand in the illicit labour and sex markets,

"*Expressing dismay* at the ability of criminal networks to avoid punishment while preying on the vulnerabilities of their victims,

"*Noting* the distinctions and interlinkages between the two criminal behaviours of trafficking in persons, as set forth in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and of smuggling of migrants, as set forth in the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[69]

"*Convinced* of the urgent need for broad and concerted international cooperation among all Member States, employing a multidisciplinary, balanced and global approach, including adequate technical assistance, in order to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

"*Convinced also* that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, can play a role in reducing existing and future opportunities for victimization in the field of trafficking and in assisting Governments in promoting protection of victims through comprehensive and non-stigmatizing social and appropriate economic assistance to victims, including in the areas of health, education, housing and employment,

"*Welcoming* efforts of Member States, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, to create awareness among civil society concerning the seriousness of the crime of trafficking and of its various forms, as well as the role of the public in preventing victimization and assisting victims of trafficking,

"*Noting* the thematic discussion on trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, held by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session,

"1. *Urges* Member States to employ a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in persons, incorporating law enforcement efforts and, where appropriate, the confiscation and seizure of the proceeds of trafficking, protection of victims and preventive measures, including measures against activities that draw profit from the exploitation of victims of trafficking;

"2. *Calls upon* Member States to collaborate with a view to preventing trafficking in persons, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation, through:

(a) Improved technical cooperation to strengthen local and national institutions aimed at preventing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in countries of origin;

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[69] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex III.

(b) Information campaigns on the techniques and methods of traffickers, programmes of education aimed at prospective targets, as well as vocational training in social skills and assistance in the re-integration of victims of trafficking into society;

(c) Focusing on post-conflict regions where patterns of human trafficking are emerging as a new phenomenon and incorporating anti-trafficking measures into early intervention;

"3. *Recognizes* that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential to effectively counter the threat of trafficking in persons;

"4. *Urges* Member States to take measures to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[67] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[68] and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[65] and to implement those instruments by, inter alia:

(a) Criminalizing trafficking in persons;

(b) Promoting cooperation among law enforcement authorities in combating trafficking in persons;

(c) Establishing the offence of trafficking in persons as a predicate offence for money-laundering offences;

"5. *Invites* Member States to adopt measures, in accordance with their domestic law and capacity, inter alia:

(a) To fight sexual exploitation with a view to abolishing it, by prosecuting and punishing those who engage in that activity;

(b) To raise awareness, especially through training, among criminal justice officials and others as appropriate of the needs of victims of trafficking and of the crucial role of victims in detecting and prosecuting this crime by, inter alia:

(i) Investigation of all cases reported by victims, prevention of further victimization and treatment of victims with respect;

(ii) Treatment of victims and witnesses with sensitivity throughout criminal judicial proceedings, in accordance with articles 24 and 25 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and article 6, paragraph 2, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

"6. *Also invites* Member States to adopt measures, in accordance with their domestic law and capacity, inter alia:

(a) To provide assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in persons, including measures to permit victims of trafficking to remain in their territory temporarily or permanently, as appropriate;

(b) To promote the legislative and other measures necessary to establish a wide range of assistance, including legal, psychological, medical and social assistance and, if appropriate, compensation or restitution, to the actual victims of trafficking, subject to the determination of the existence of victimization;

(c) To provide humane treatment for all victims of trafficking, taking into account their age, gender and particular needs, in accordance with article 6, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

(d) To assist in reintegrating the victims of trafficking into society;

"7. *Further invites* Member States, as appropriate, to develop guidelines for the protection of victims of trafficking before, during and after criminal proceedings;

"8. *Urges* Member States to ensure that measures taken against trafficking in persons, especially women and children, are consistent with internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination and that they respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims;

"9. *Invites* Member States to set up mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations with a view to responding to the immediate needs of victims of trafficking;

"10. *Also invites* Member States to allocate appropriate resources for victim services, public awareness campaigns and law enforcement activities directed at eliminating trafficking and exploitation and to foster international cooperation, including adequate technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, to improve the ability of Member States to take effective measures against trafficking in persons;

"11. *Encourages* Member States to examine the role of the exploitation of the prostitution of others in encouraging trafficking in persons;

"12. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt legislative or other measures to reduce the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking in persons, including by cooperating with non-governmental organizations and civil society and by raising public awareness of how sexual and other forms of exploitation degrade their victims and the related risks of trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

"13. *Further encourages* Member States to take measures, including raising public awareness, to discourage, especially among men, the demand that fosters sexual exploitation, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 5, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

"14. *Encourages* Member States to target the link, where appropriate, between trafficking in persons for purposes of sexual and other forms of exploitation and further types of crime;

"15. *Encourages* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the Secretariat to continue its close cooperation and coordination with relevant international and regional organizations in this area;

"16. *Encourages* Member States to make voluntary contributions to further strengthen and support the Centre and its Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings, in particular in the area of technical assistance activities;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/21
International cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[70] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[71] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[72]

"*Recalling also* its resolution 55/255 of 31 May 2001, by which it adopted the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts, Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[73]

"*Recalling further* its resolution 56/120 of 19 December 2001, on action against transnational organized crime: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

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[70] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

[71] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II.

[72] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex III.

[73] General Assembly resolution 55/255, annex.

"*Reaffirming its deep concern* at the impact of transnational organized crime on the political, social and economic stability and development of societies,

"*Reaffirming* that the adoption of the Convention and the Protocols thereto is a significant development in international criminal law and that they constitute important instruments for effective international cooperation against transnational organized crime,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;[74]

"2. *Welcomes* the imminent entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[70] and notes the number of signatures and ratifications of the three Protocols to the Convention, which is likely to lead to the expected entry into force at an early date of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[71] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;[72]

"3. *Commends* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the Secretariat for its work in promoting the ratification of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, including, in particular, the preparation of legislative guides designed to facilitate the ratification and subsequent implementation of those instruments, and invites the Centre to finalize the legislative guides and to disseminate them as widely as possible;

"4. *Welcomes* the organization by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat of the Treaty Event 'Focus 2003: treaties against transnational organized crime and terrorism', to be held during its fifty-eighth session in accordance with its resolution 57/173 of 18 December 2002, urges Member States to participate fully in that event, and also urges Member States that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, approval or accession to the Convention and the Protocols thereto, in order to ensure the widest possible participation in those instruments and thus to maximize their effectiveness;

"5. *Also welcomes* the financial support provided by several donors to promote the entry into force and implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and encourages Member States to make sufficient voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, as well as contributions in direct support of activities and projects of the Centre, including through contributions to the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of those international legal instruments;

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[74] E/CN.15/2003/5.

"6. *Requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention, in its capacity as secretariat of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, to undertake all activities necessary to ensure the efficient preparation of the inaugural session of that Conference, in 2004;

"7. *Also requests* the Centre, within existing regular or extrabudgetary resources, in preparing to provide services to the Conference of the Parties as mandated, to develop a guide containing elements that would be useful to States parties in meeting their reporting requirements to the Conference of the Parties and to undertake a study on the functioning of extradition and mutual legal assistance through existing mechanisms, including bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements or arrangements;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Centre with the resources necessary to enable it to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with its mandate;

"9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution in his report on the work of the Centre to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session."

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/22

Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its relevant resolutions relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, as well as Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, 1377 (2001) of 12 November 2001 and 1456 (2003) of 20 January 2003,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 56/1 of 12 September 2001, in which it strongly condemned the heinous acts of terrorism of 11 September 2001, and 57/27 of 19 November 2002, in which it also condemned those in Bali and Moscow, and urgently called for international cooperation to prevent and eradicate acts of terrorism, as well as Security Council resolution 1465 (2003) of 13 February 2003, in which the Council condemned the bombing attack in Bogota on 7 February 2003, "*Recalling further* its resolution 57/173 of 18 December 2002, in which it affirmed the importance of the role of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the Secretariat in the fulfilment of its mandate, including to prevent and combat terrorism, and in particular in strengthening international cooperation and providing technical assistance, upon request, which complements the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council,

"*Recalling* its resolution 57/292 of 20 December 2002, in section IV of which it approved the strengthening of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat, given that terrorism was one of the priorities of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,

"*Mindful* of its resolution 56/261 of 31 January 2002, on the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, which includes a plan of action against terrorism,

"*Supporting* the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance an integrated approach to combating terrorism, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and other related forms of criminal activity,

"*Stressing* the need for close coordination and cooperation between States, international, regional and subregional organizations and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, as well as the Centre for International Crime Prevention, in preventing and combating terrorism and criminal activities carried out for the purpose of furthering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

"*Convinced* of the need, as asserted by the General Assembly and the Security Council in various resolutions, in particular Council resolution 1373 (2001), to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism, and noting with deep concern the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, money-laundering and trafficking in arms, as well as illegal transfers of nuclear, chemical and biological materials,

"*Expressing its appreciation* to the Government of Austria and the Centre for International Crime Prevention for the organization of the symposium on the theme 'Combating international terrorism: the contribution of the United Nations', held in Vienna on 3 and 4 June 2002, and taking note of the report of the Executive Director,[75]

"*Recalling* that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law and that such measures are adopted in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, as appropriate,

"*Noting with appreciation* that the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/120 of 17 December 1996 is continuing the preparation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and of a draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism,

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[75] See A/57/152 and Corr.1, A/57/152/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2 and A/57/152/Add.2.

"1. *Encourages* the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the Secretariat within its mandates in the area of preventing terrorism by providing Member States, upon request, with technical assistance, specifically to implement the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, thereby strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism, working in close coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations;

"2. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Global Programme against Terrorism, launched by the Centre for International Crime Prevention, which provides the appropriate framework for activities supporting Member States in their fight against terrorism, in particular through the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism;

"3. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to and implement the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and, where appropriate, to request assistance to that end from the Centre for International Crime Prevention;

"4. *Notes* the preparation of a United Nations legislative guide to the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, which was reviewed by an expert group hosted by the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences in Siracusa, Italy, from 3 to 5 December 2002, and invites States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism to make use of the legislative guide in their efforts to incorporate the provisions of those instruments into their national legislation;

"5. *Urges* Member States to continue working together, also on a regional and bilateral basis and in close cooperation with the United Nations, to prevent and combat acts of terrorism by strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance within the framework of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1377 (2001) and 1456 (2003) and other relevant international instruments and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law;

"6. *Requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention, subject to the availability of regular or extrabudgetary resources, to prepare guidelines on technical assistance according to which the Centre, acting in areas within its competence and in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, will provide assistance, related to promoting the ratification of, accession to and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and to identify concrete elements of such assistance with a view to facilitating cooperation among Member States in combating terrorism, and to submit those guidelines to Member States for their consideration;

"7. *Also requests* the Centre, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, to intensify its efforts to provide technical assistance, upon request, in preventing and combating terrorism through the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, with particular emphasis on the need to coordinate its work with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and international, regional and subregional organizations;

"8. *Expresses its appreciation* to donor countries that, through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund or through direct contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, have supported the launching of the Global Programme against Terrorism, and invites all States to make adequate voluntary contributions to the Fund in order to strengthen the capacity of the Centre to provide technical assistance to requesting Member States, in particular for promoting the ratification of, accession to and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism;

"9. *Recommends* that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in coordination with other United Nations entities, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee, keep under regular review the progress made by Member States in becoming parties to and implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and the needs of Member States requesting technical assistance;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize a senior-level discussion during the thirteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on progress made with regard to the criminal justice aspects of terrorism and international cooperation and to the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee and relevant international organizations to participate in that discussion;

"11. *Invites* Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information on the nature of links between terrorism and other forms of crime in order to increase synergies in the delivery of technical assistance by the Centre for International Crime Prevention, and requests the Secretary-General to include an analysis of such information in his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/23
Preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 56/119 of 19 December 2001, on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, and 57/171 of 18 December 2002, on preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

"*Considering* that, pursuant to its resolutions 415 (V) of 1 December 1950 and 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Eleventh Congress is to be held in 2005,

"*Bearing in mind* the guidelines for and the new format of the United Nations congresses, as stipulated in paragraph 2 of resolution 56/119, as well as paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, annexed to resolution 46/152,

"*Recalling* that in its resolution 57/171 it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twelfth session, to finalize the programme for the Eleventh Congress and to make its final recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly,

"*Recognizing* the significant contributions of the United Nations congresses in promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

"*Recalling* that in its resolution 57/171 it had decided that the main theme of the Eleventh Congress should be 'Synergies and responses: strategic alliances in crime prevention and criminal justice',

"*Recalling also* its resolution 57/170 of 18 December 2002, on follow-up to the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century,

"*Stressing* the importance of undertaking all the preparatory activities for the Eleventh Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[76]

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[76] E/CN.15/2003/11 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

"1. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

"2. *Decides* to hold the Eleventh Congress from 18 to 25 April 2005, with pre-congress consultations to be held on 18 April 2005;

"3. *Decides also* that the high-level segment of the Eleventh Congress shall be held during the last three days of the Congress in order to allow heads of State or Government or government ministers to focus on the main substantive agenda items of the Congress;

"4. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Eleventh Congress, finalized by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Effective measures to combat transnational organized crime.
4. International cooperation against terrorism and links between terrorism and other criminal activities in the context of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
5. Corruption: threats and trends in the twenty-first century.
6. Economic and financial crimes: challenges to sustainable development.
7. Making standards work: fifty years of standard-setting in crime prevention and criminal justice.
8. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

"5. *Decides* that the following issues shall be considered by workshops within the framework of the Eleventh Congress:

(a) Enhancing international law enforcement cooperation, including extradition measures;

(b) Enhancing criminal justice reform, including restorative justice;

(c) Strategies and best practices for crime prevention, in particular in relation to urban crime and youth at risk;

(d) Measures to combat terrorism, with reference to the relevant international conventions and protocols;

(e) Measures to combat economic crime, including money-laundering;

(f) Measures to combat computer-related crime;

"6. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to prepare, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Eleventh Congress;

"7. *Urges* the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the workshop topics of the Eleventh Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Eleventh Congress and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fourteenth session;

"8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the Secretariat and to the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the discussion guide for the workshops, requested in paragraph 6 above, consideration of technical cooperation ideas, projects and documents related to enhancing bilateral and multilateral efforts in technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice;

"10. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the workshops;

"11. *Approves* the plan for documentation for the Eleventh Congress, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on preparations for the Congress,[77] taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice related thereto;

"12. *Invites* Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to inform the Eleventh Congress about their activities with a view to the implementation of the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, which are contained in the annex to resolution 56/261, as guidance for the formulation of legislation, policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice at the national and international levels;

"13. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in the regional preparatory meetings for the Eleventh Congress and at the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice;

"14. *Encourages* Governments to undertake preparations for the Eleventh Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion on the topics and to participating actively in the organization of and follow-up to the workshops;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide resources, as required, in accordance with established United Nations budgetary practice and within the overall appropriations of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, in order to ensure a wide and effective programme of public information relating to the preparations for the Eleventh Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations;

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[77] E/CN.15/2003/11, para. 64.

"16. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to be represented at the Eleventh Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by heads of State or Government or government ministers and attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress and to participate in thematic interactive round tables;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Eleventh Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Eleventh Congress;

"18. *Again encourages* the relevant specialized agencies, United Nations programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the Centre for International Crime Prevention in the preparations for the Eleventh Congress;

"19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Eleventh Congress, in accordance with past practice, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;

"20. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to accord sufficient time at its thirteenth session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Congress, to finalize in good time all the necessary organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly;

"21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirteenth session."

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/24

Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, including the management of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, in which the Assembly approved the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, *Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 56/123 of 19 December 2001 and 57/173 of 18 December 2002 on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity,

Welcoming the increase in voluntary contributions made by donors to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, which enables the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the Secretariat to execute a larger number of technical assistance projects,

Welcoming also other contributions made by donors in direct support of activities and projects of the Centre, including through contributions made to institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network,

Recognizing the importance of transparency and close communication between the Centre and Member States in order to raise the confidence of Member States in its work,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention;[78]

2. *Invites* Member States to make appropriate voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund in order to strengthen the capacity of the Centre to provide technical assistance to requesting States;

3. *Encourages* Member States to continue to make contributions in direct support of activities and projects of the Centre, including through contributions to institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts being made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to ensure transparency in its work, as well as to maintain a continuous dialogue with Member States, including through appropriate informative documentation, with a view to enhancing its accountability to Member States and to improve the synergy between the activities of the Centre and those of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

5. *Encourages* the Centre for International Crime Prevention to provide Member States with more information on a regular basis on funding requirements for projects in order to increase voluntary contributions;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary financial resources, to extend the Programme and Financial Information Management System to the activities funded by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, so that Member States are provided with up-to-date online financial information on those activities;

7. *Stresses* the importance of monitoring and evaluation of projects financed by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, and welcomes in that respect the recent decision to establish an independent evaluation function in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

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[78] E/CN.15/2003/2

8. *Welcomes* the recent delegation of authority from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna for the management of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, which should increase the efficiency of the Centre for International Crime Prevention in managing its financial resources and enhance its reporting to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the financial status of the Fund;

9. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to use the experience of the Fund Raising Unit of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in areas such as broadening the donor base, cost-sharing, private sector funding and other innovative means to increase the resources of the Centre for International Crime Prevention;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to include in his annual report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice information on the financial status of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund and the results of the evaluation of projects financed by the Fund;

11. *Also requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide Member States with relevant information on the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund when required.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/25

International cooperation, technical assistance and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders[79] and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/59 of 4 December 2000,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/173 of 18 December 2002 on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity,

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/24 of 28 July 1998, on technical cooperation and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice, and 2002/19 of 24 July 2002, on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in preventing and combating terrorism,

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[79] See *Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Vienna, 10-17 April 2000: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.IV.8).

Emphasizing the importance of enhancing international cooperation and coordination among Member States in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations, including sustainable development, improved quality of life, democracy and human rights,

Noting the increasing number of requests for technical assistance received by the Centre for International Crime Prevention from least developed countries, developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict,

Expressing its appreciation for funding provided by Member States in 2002, which has permitted the Centre to enhance its capacity to conduct an increasing number of technical assistance activities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Executive Director of the Office on Drugs and Crime on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention,[80] in particular its technical cooperation activities, and on ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[81] and the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and combating terrorism;[82]

2. *Commends* the Centre for assisting Member States in the improvement of their criminal justice systems by responding to an increasing number of requests for technical assistance in the implementation of projects;

3. *Recognizes* the expansion of technical assistance activities of the Centre and encourages international, regional and national funding agencies, as well as international financial institutions, to support the technical cooperation activities and interregional advisory services of the Centre;

4. *Urges* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as other international and regional organizations, to increase their interaction with the Centre in order to ensure that, as appropriate, activities in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, including activities to combat terrorism and corruption, are considered in their country and regional programmes and development frameworks, to ensure the full utilization of the expertise of the Centre in activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice and to promotion of the rule of law and to avoid duplication of effort;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States for supporting the technical assistance activities of the Centre by providing financial or in-kind contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

6. *Expresses the need* to have adequate resources available in order to make progress in the further operationalization of the activities of the Centre and in order to implement the projects carried out under its global programmes against trafficking in human beings, terrorism, corruption and organized crime;

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[80] E/CN.15/2003/2.

[81] E/CN.15/2003/5.

[82] E/CN.15/2003/9.

7. *Urges* Member States to make or increase, as appropriate, voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, as well as to make or increase, as appropriate, contributions in direct support of activities and projects of the Centre, including through contributions to institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, in order to strengthen further the capacity of the Centre to provide technical assistance;

8. *Encourages* Member States, in particular, developing countries and countries with economies in transition, that are beneficiaries of technical assistance provided by the Centre and are in a position to do so to contribute to the activities of the Centre through such means as the provision of necessary infrastructure or human resources or by allotting national funds to projects implemented in partnership with the Centre;

9. *Encourages* developing countries and countries with economies in transition to include in their requests for assistance from the United Nations Development Programme, in particular within its country programme framework, projects and/or elements on crime prevention and criminal justice;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance further the resources available within the existing overall budgetary framework of the United Nations for the operational activities and, in particular, the interregional advisory services of the Centre for International Crime Prevention under section 23, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the regular budget of the United Nations;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make all possible efforts, including appeals to donors in the private sector, mobilization of resources and fund-raising, to increase extrabudgetary resources, including general-purpose funds, bearing in mind the need to safeguard the independence and international character of the Centre.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/26
Prevention of urban crime

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 55/59 of 4 December 2000, in which the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held in Vienna from 10 to 17 April 2000, 56/261 of 31 January 2002, in which the Assembly took note with appreciation of the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration, annexed to resolution 56/261, including the plan of action on crime prevention,[83] and 57/170 of 18 December 2002, in which the Assembly again invited Governments to use the plans of action as a guide in their efforts to formulate legislation, policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

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[83] General Assembly resolution 56/261, annex, sect. VIII.

Recalling also its resolution 1995/9 of 24 July 1995, in which it adopted guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention,

Recalling further its resolution 2002/13 of 24 July 2002, on action to promote effective crime prevention, in which it accepted the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, annexed to the resolution,

Concerned at the continuing rise in urban crime of an increasingly serious nature in many parts of the world,

Mindful of the clear linkages between urban crime and drug trafficking, organized crime and the illegal possession and use of firearms,

Recognizing that in many countries criminal activities have become a major threat to public safety in large urban areas,

Expressing particular concern for children at risk in large urban areas,

Recognizing that urban criminality in specific situations hampers economic growth and weakens state institutions, thereby undermining efforts to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty,

Recognizing also the need for a balanced, integrated approach to fighting urban crime, including activities addressing such root causes as poverty, social marginalization and exclusion and lack of opportunities for young people,

Recognizing further that crime prevention strategies and actions should be based on a broad, gender-sensitive, multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge about proven and promising practices,

Reiterating the need for more regional and international collaboration in the fight against urban crime,

1. *Encourages* Member States to draw upon the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, annexed to Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, when developing, implementing and evaluating urban crime prevention programmes and projects, and to share their experience gained in that regard, including in their inputs to the report of the Secretary-General requested in that resolution;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to establish effective policies and to pursue the implementation of such policies, where appropriate, to protect children at risk in urban areas;

3. *Requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in consultation with Member States, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other relevant entities of the United Nations system, to continue to assist Member States, upon request, to prepare proposals for the provision of technical assistance in the area of crime prevention, in accordance with the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, including through capacity-building and training;

4. *Also requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and with the assistance of Governments, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and relevant United Nations entities, to compile an overview of

proven and promising practices in the area of urban crime prevention, including in criminal justice, to develop a practical manual on the use and application of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime and to convene for that purpose an expert group meeting, with participants to be selected on the basis of equitable geographical representation;

5. *Again calls upon* all relevant United Nations organizations and bodies and international financial institutions to give appropriate consideration to the inclusion of urban crime prevention and law enforcement projects in their assistance programmes;

6. *Recommends* that in the programme of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice due attention be given to the issue of urban crime;

7. *Welcomes* the inclusion of urban crime and youth at risk as one of the issues for the workshops to be held at the Eleventh Congress, which would permit an in-depth discussion of the subject at the regional preparatory meetings for the Congress.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/27
Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware that the conservation of wild flora and fauna is essential for the maintenance of biological diversity, preservation of the environment and sustainable development,

Recalling the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,[84] and the Convention on Biological Diversity[85] and action taken to implement those conventions,

Aware of the existence of organized criminal groups operating transnationally that specialize in trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, and concerned at the adverse environmental, economic and social repercussions of their activities,

Convinced that international cooperation and mutual legal assistance are both essential to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna,

Recalling its resolution 2001/12 of 24 July 2001, in which it urged States to adopt the legislative or other measures necessary for establishing trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna as a criminal offence in their domestic legislation,

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[84] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

[85] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

Recalling also its resolution 2002/18 of 24 July 2002, in which it urged all Member States to cooperate with the Secretary-General and other competent entities of the United Nations system so that the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of its resolution 2001/12 might be finalized,

Taking note of the replies received from Member States concerning their national legislation and practical experience in the area of trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[86]

1. *Welcomes* with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and illicit access to genetic resources;[86]

2. *Urges* all Member States to cooperate, as appropriate, with the Secretary-General and competent entities of the United Nations system, in particular the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

3. *Urges* Member States to adopt preventive measures, where necessary, as well as to review their criminal legislation with a view to ensuring that offences relating to trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna are punishable by appropriate penalties that take into account the serious nature of those offences;

4. *Encourages* Member States to undertake awareness-raising activities to improve understanding of the serious impact of trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to promote international cooperation as well as the conclusion of mutual legal assistance agreements, as appropriate, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/28

International cooperation in the prevention, combating and elimination of kidnapping and in providing assistance to victims

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned at the practice of kidnapping in various countries of the world and at the harmful effects of that crime on victims and their families, and resolved to support measures to assist and protect them and to promote their recovery,

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[86] E/CN.15/2003/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

Reiterating that the kidnapping of persons under any circumstances and for any purpose constitutes a serious crime and a violation of individual freedom and undermines human rights,

Noting the transnational nature of organized crime and the tendency of organized criminal groups and terrorist groups to expand their illegal operations,

Concerned at the growing tendency of organized criminal groups and terrorist groups to resort to kidnapping, especially for the purpose of extortion, as a method of accumulating capital with a view to consolidating their criminal operations and undertaking other illegal activities, such as trafficking in firearms, drugs and persons, money-laundering and crimes related to terrorism,

Convinced that the links between various illegal activities, including terrorism, and organized crime pose an additional threat to security and the quality of life, hindering economic and social development,

Convinced also that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[87] provides the legal framework necessary for international cooperation in the fight against kidnapping,

Recalling its resolution 2002/16 of 24 July 2002, entitled "International cooperation in the prevention, combating and elimination of kidnapping and in providing assistance for the victims", in which it requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with competent entities of the United Nations system, to submit a progress report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session on the factual and legal situation of kidnapping throughout the world, including the situation of victims,

1. *Vigorously condemns and rejects once again* the practice of kidnapping, in any circumstances and for any purpose, including kidnapping by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups;

2. *Stresses* that organized criminal groups and terrorist groups as well as all perpetrators are responsible for any harm or death that results from a kidnapping committed by them and should be punished accordingly;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the prevention, combating and elimination of kidnapping and in providing assistance to victims,[88] submitted pursuant to its resolution 2002/16;

4. *Urges* Member States that have taken new measures in the context of the present resolution to cooperate with the Secretary-General and competent entities of the United Nations system, in particular the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, inter alia, by submitting comments on the progress report of the Secretary-General and by providing information on national legislation and on practical measures and experience at the domestic level in that connection;

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[87] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

[88] E/CN.15/2003/7 and Add.1.

5. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to provide to the Secretary-General information on the practice of kidnapping and on relevant domestic measures that have been adopted, including any related to support and assistance to the victims and their families;

6. *Also invites* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt the legislative or other measures necessary to establish kidnapping as a serious crime in their domestic legislation, in accordance with the definition of "serious crime" in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;[89]

7. *Encourages* Member States to continue to foster international cooperation, especially extradition, mutual legal assistance, collaboration between law enforcement authorities and information exchange, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating kidnapping;

8. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so, in furtherance of the fight against kidnapping, to strengthen their measures against money-laundering and to engage in international cooperation and mutual assistance, inter alia, in the tracing, detection, freezing and confiscation of proceeds of kidnapping in order to combat organized criminal groups and terrorist groups;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, drawing on extrabudgetary funds or voluntary contributions, to provide technical assistance to States, upon request, to enable them to strengthen their capacity to combat kidnapping, including establishing, as appropriate, special law enforcement and prosecution units and mechanisms for cooperation with civil society and international cooperation;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to complete his report on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/16, including in it information on the practice of kidnapping and on relevant domestic measures that have been taken, including those related to support and assistance to the victims and their families, and to submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirteenth session.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/29

Prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the serious harm done to States and to the objects themselves by the theft and illicit export of objects regarded as part of States' cultural heritage, in particular as a result of the plundering of archaeological sites and of other sites of historical and cultural value,

Recognizing the importance for States of protecting and preserving their cultural heritage in accordance with the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 November 1970,[90] the preamble to which refers, inter alia, to the duty of every State to protect the cultural property existing within its territory against the dangers of theft, clandestine excavation and illicit export, and also the commitment by States and relevant international organizations to combat such practices with all the means at their disposal, in particular with regard to international cooperation on the return of such property,

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[89] See General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I, article 2.

Wishing to promote mutual cooperation in preventing illegal acts against the historical and cultural legacy of peoples,

Aware of the urgent need to establish standards for the restitution and return of movable property forming part of the cultural heritage of peoples after it has been stolen or illicitly exported, and for its protection and preservation,

Recognizing that one of the main objectives of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice is the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/121 of 14 December 1990 on the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990,

Recalling also the Model Treaty for the Prevention of Crimes that Infringe on the Cultural Heritage of Peoples in the Form of Movable Property, adopted by the Eighth Congress,[91]

Welcoming the organization by the Andean Community of Nations and the Government of France of a regional workshop on theft and illicit trafficking of cultural property, held in Lima from 14 to 16 May 2003,

1. *Encourages* Member States to consider, where appropriate and in accordance with national law, when concluding relevant agreements with other States, the Model Treaty for the Prevention of Crimes that Infringe on the Cultural Heritage of Peoples in the Form of Movable Property, adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990;[91]

2. *Calls upon* all Member States to continue to strengthen international cooperation and mutual assistance in the prevention and prosecution of crimes against movable property that forms part of the cultural heritage of peoples;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

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[90] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806.

[91] See *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August–7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B, para. 2.

2003/30
United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/15 of 24 July 2002, on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in which it reaffirmed the importance of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the framework of peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction, and requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of a group of experts, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, to make concrete proposals on the application of United Nations standards and norms to be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session,

Recalling also its resolution 2002/17 of 24 July 2002, on international cooperation, technical assistance and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice, in which it invited potential donors to make significant and regular contributions, and requested the Secretary-General to enhance further the resources available for operational activities and interregional advisory services,

Recalling further its resolution 1993/34 of 27 July 1993, in particular section III, paragraph 7 (c), in which it requested the Secretary-General to commence without delay a process of information-gathering to be undertaken by means of surveys, such as reporting systems, and contributions from other sources,

Welcoming the ongoing collaboration between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the areas of juvenile justice, human rights education, professional education for judges and lawyers, technical cooperation, counter-terrorism and human rights, trafficking in persons, the rights of victims, the independence of the judiciary and post-conflict reconstruction,

Desirous of reforming and streamlining the current process of information-gathering with respect to the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in order to make the process more efficient and cost-effective for all those concerned,

Aware of the resources past surveys have required from Member States and acknowledging the workload of the Centre for International Crime Prevention and Member States in relation to the present priorities set by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;[97]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work undertaken by the Meeting of Experts on the Application of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Stadtschlaining, Austria, from 10 to 12 February 2003, takes note of the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts contained in the annex to the present resolution, and expresses its appreciation to the

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[97] E/CN.15/2003/10 and Add.1 and 2.

Governments of Austria, Canada and Germany for their financial support in the organization of the Meeting;

3. *Decides* to group United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in the following categories for the purpose of targeted collection of information, in order to better identify the specific needs of Member States and to provide an analytical framework with a view to improving technical cooperation:

(a) Standards and norms related primarily to persons in custody, non-custodial sanctions and juvenile and restorative justice;

(b) Standards and norms related primarily to legal, institutional and practical arrangements for international cooperation;

(c) Standards and norms related primarily to crime prevention and victim issues;

(d) Standards and norms related primarily to good governance, the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of criminal justice personnel;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and United Nations entities, in responding to targeted inquiries on the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, to focus on identifying difficulties that have been encountered in their application, ways in which technical assistance to requesting States can overcome those difficulties and desirable practices in the prevention and control of crime;

5. *Requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network:

(a) To provide support to Member States, requesting assistance with specific issues in the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including by developing resource materials and organizing training courses and workshops;

(b) To collaborate with other United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national institutions, to promote the widest possible dissemination of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and to identify experts in that field who may be available to assist requesting Member States;

(c) To provide advisory services in relation to United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, an intergovernmental expert group meeting on the basis of adequate and equitable geographical representation to prepare proposals to be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirteenth session in relation to:

(a) The design of information-gathering instruments that are short, simple, complete and understandable in relation to select groups of standards and norms referred to in paragraph 3 above and that are aimed at identifying and addressing specific problems in Member States requesting assistance and at providing an analytical framework with a view to improving technical cooperation;

(b) New ways and means for maximizing the effectiveness of technical assistance to Member States in specific areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the context of the reconstruction of criminal justice institutions in peacekeeping and post-conflict situations, in particular as regards capacity-building and the promotion of the rule of law;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifteenth session on progress made in the first targeted collection of information on the group of standards and norms referred to in paragraph 3 (a) and (b) above, including how that collection of information relates to requests by Member States for technical assistance.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

Annex

Recommendations of the Meeting of Experts on the Application of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Recommendations to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

1. The application and formulation of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice should continue to be accorded high priority by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The standing agenda item on those standards and norms should be maintained and appropriate time and resources should be devoted to it.

2. Possible future United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice should focus on emerging practices in crime prevention or criminal justice, in order to facilitate the development of detailed practical guidelines for use by interested States in carrying out specific tasks.

3. The Commission should establish a mechanism, such as a group of experts and/or a special rapporteur, to supplement existing procedures for undertaking periodic reviews of the application of selected standards and norms in order to ensure their promotion, as well as to make appropriate recommendations to the Commission.

4. The focus in subsequent review cycles should be on identifying difficulties that have been encountered in the application of United Nations standards and norms, in crime prevention and criminal justice, ways in which technical assistance can be used to overcome those difficulties and desirable practices in crime prevention and control.

5. The resulting data and other information should be shared in order to enhance the level and impact of technical cooperation in the world, the overall objective being to promote criminal justice reform in line with applicable United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

6. The entire review process should be guided by the need to relate it to the main programme priorities of the United Nations, as noted in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[35] and the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century,[36] including strengthening the rule of law, good governance, sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty.

7. In line with the programme priorities of the United Nations, the Commission, at each of its sessions, should seek to focus on the application of a cluster of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Commission may wish to consider the possibility of reviewing a presentation of a particular cluster of standards and norms and their application in specific countries. Such a presentation could be prepared in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network.

8. In redesigning the information-gathering mechanisms and within the limits of current programme budget resources, the Commission should examine and propose focusing the future review process on selected clusters of instruments with the most widespread potential and relevance for application in criminal justice reforms in the world, in the following order of priority, bearing in mind gender as a cross-cutting issue, and grouped into clusters as follows:

(a) Juvenile justice and prison reform, including alternatives to imprisonment and restorative justice;

(b) The conduct of law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners, including the integrity of the judiciary;

(c) Public security and crime prevention;

(d) The treatment of victims and witnesses;

(e) Legal, institutional and practical arrangements for international cooperation (model treaties).

9. The Commission should request donor States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions to support criminal justice reforms, in accordance with United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in countries requesting assistance. The Commission could rely on a roster of national and regional experts who could, upon request, provide technical assistance and advice on the use and application of selected standards and norms.

10. The Commission should encourage donor countries to make financial contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. Contributions should be directed towards technical cooperation projects for implementing and promoting United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as organizing meetings of experts to identify priority areas for the development of future standards and norms.

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[35] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[36] General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex.

Recommendations to Member States and other entities

11. Each of the Member States should be encouraged to identify at least one contact person who could serve as a knowledgeable source for the analysis of the State's response concerning the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

12. Member States should establish mechanisms and provide resources at the national level for promoting and monitoring the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

13. Focused efforts should be made to obtain the commitment of policy makers and criminal justice managers to the implementation of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

14. Member States should publish and disseminate, in their local languages, the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

15. United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice should be easily accessible and explained in understandable language.

16. Member States, financial institutions and development agencies should support projects for the implementation of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

17. Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and interregional, regional and national training and educational institutions should vigorously promote programmes and projects that advance the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

18. National institutions and non-governmental organizations should integrate United Nations standards and norms fully into their relevant training programmes.

Recommendations to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

19. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should emphasize in its organizational structure and operations the essential role of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

20. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should assist Member States, upon request, in the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and in the development of projects.

21. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should seek to ensure that the relevant entities within the Secretariat and in the field are fully aware of the importance of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice for building and maintaining the rule of law.

22. Well-focused efforts should be undertaken to encourage officials in peacekeeping and peace-building operations and their counterparts to apply United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

23. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should identify opportunities for sharing data and other information on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice with Governments and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

24. The information provided by Member States on the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice should be distributed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime via the World Wide Web.

25. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should encourage financial institutions, development agencies and non-governmental organizations to expand their technical assistance programmes for improving access to justice and the rule of law.

26. The information-gathering mechanisms used by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should be reviewed in order to bring them in line with the overall programme priorities of the United Nations. The goal should be to redesign the mechanisms in a more comprehensive, consistent and operational manner, so that the collected data and other information are more relevant to those priorities. The goal should also be to enhance cooperation among respondents, both in the collection of data and in the execution of technical cooperation projects.

27. New information-gathering mechanisms should be focused on identifying difficulties encountered in application and desirable practices. The mechanisms should be based on the present United Nations priorities unless the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2005, identifies new priorities.

28. Bearing in mind the priorities, the new information-gathering mechanisms should be conceptualized and existing mechanisms reviewed along the following parameters:

(a) Standards and norms related primarily to persons in custody, non-custodial sanctions and juvenile and restorative justice;

(b) Standards and norms related primarily to good governance, the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of criminal justice personnel;

(c) Standards and norms related primarily to crime prevention and victim issues;

(d) Standards and norms related primarily to legal, institutional and practical arrangements for international cooperation.

29. Reviews of United Nations standards and norms related primarily to capital punishment should be conducted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/57 of 28 July 1995, in which the Council recommended that the quinquennial reports of the Secretary-General should continue to cover the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.

30. In gathering information on the above-mentioned priorities, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should also focus its efforts on practical measures that make it possible to determine their operational usefulness in restoring or maintaining law and order, with particular reference to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and post-conflict situations.

31. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should continue to explore the possibility of additional approaches and techniques in information-gathering in order to develop even more concise, simplified and cross-sectoral methods.

32. The survey instruments should be designed to be short, easy to complete and comprehensible.

33. The Secretary-General is requested to involve the regional institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network in the review and design of the information-gathering instruments and the analysis of information collected.

34. Procedures should be developed according to which the Secretary-General, in reporting on the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, would be able to utilize not only other relevant information available within the United Nations, but also the expertise of specialized agencies, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

Recommendations on training

35. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should continue to develop and produce manuals, modules and tools to be used in providing training on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, to carry out a limited number of such training courses and workshops and to coordinate such training with other United Nations entities.

36. A training unit should be created within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and resources should be allocated for training and coordination functions.

37. To the maximum extent possible, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network should be utilized in the planning and conduct of such training activities.

38. In cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should develop basic training materials for peacekeeping and peace-building operations.

Recommendations on technical cooperation

39. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should establish rosters of national and regional experts who would be able to provide, upon request, technical assistance and advice on the application of particular types of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. Such rosters should be developed in accordance with the different clusters of such standards and norms.

40. The advisory services of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in relation to United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice should be enhanced. Projects should be evaluated in the light of the information gathered. The lessons learned should be incorporated into future planning so that the capacity to execute technical assistance projects can be improved.

41. At the request of Member States, practical projects should be developed, in particular for victims' support services and witness protection, prison reform and alternatives to imprisonment, juvenile justice and restorative justice.

2003/31
Functioning of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, annexed to General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991,

Recalling resolutions 1/1 of 29 April 1992,[95] 4/3 of 9 June 1995,[96] 5/3 of 31 May 1996[97] and 6/1 of 9 May 1997[98] of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted under the agenda item "Strategic management and programme questions",

Recalling in particular Commission resolution 5/3, in which it requested member States to submit to the bureau draft proposals, together with the information required in accordance with the annex to Commission resolution 4/3, one month prior to the commencement of the session of the Commission, in order to ensure the smooth and effective functioning of the Commission,

Recognizing the need for the bureau of the Commission to have adequate time to prepare for sessions of the Commission,

Recalling its resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999, in particular paragraph 3 of chapter I thereof regarding the method of election of the bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

1. *Encourages* States members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to submit their draft proposals to it in accordance with its resolution 5/3 and to include in such proposals the information required in accordance with the annex to Commission resolution 4/3, including on the proposed activity, the timetable and identification of the United Nations or other body that could carry out the activity, one month prior to the commencement of the session of the Commission;

2. *Endorses* the request of the Commission to its bureau to report on its intersessional work annually, including on its experience with regard to the adherence of Member States to the procedural requirements for the submission of draft proposals;

3. *Decides* that the Commission should examine during the intersessional period, with a view to taking a decision at its thirteenth session, the duration of the session of the Commission on the basis of the experience gained from its twelve sessions held so far and taking into account the requirements of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, the requirements of the work of the Commission, the judicious use of the resources allocated to the Commission and the experience to be gained from its intersessional meetings;

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[95] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 10* (E/1992/30), chap. I, sect. C.

[96] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 10* (E/1995/30), chap. I, sect. D.

[97] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 10* (E/1996/30), chap. I, sect. D.

[98] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 10* (E/1997/30), chap. I, sect. D.

4. *Requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to submit to the Commission at its thirteenth session a report on the status of implementation of the mandates assigned to it by or through the recommendation of the Commission, including information on the requirements of such implementation.

5. *Decides* that, with effect from 2004, the Commission should, at the end of its session, elect its bureau for the subsequent session and encourage it to play an active role in the preparation of the regular as well as the informal intersessional meetings of the Commission, so as to enable the Commission to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, and also decides that the Chairman should, whenever appropriate, invite the chairmen of the five regional groups, the chairman of the Group of 77 and China and the Presidency of the European Union to participate in the meetings of the bureau.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/32

Training in precursor control, countering money-laundering and drug abuse prevention

The Economic and Social Council,

Conscious that offences connected with drug trafficking depend on the availability of chemical precursors, without which the illicit manufacture of cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants would not have become a problem,

Concerned at the escalation of the problem of illicit supply, diversion and substitution of precursors and at the use of sophisticated technologies,

Also concerned at the increase in the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking, which is detrimental to national economies and fosters corruption,

Noting that the supply of and demand for illicit drugs are harmful to public health and that children and young persons are among the consumers of such drugs,

Recognizing that education and training are basic prerequisites for the efficient performance of the various tasks that institutions and their officials must carry out in order to deal with the world drug problem and drug-related offences,

Urges relevant international organizations, in consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to provide financing and other support for the training of experts in various subjects related to the fight against the world drug problem, with particular emphasis on preventive measures and areas such as precursor control, drug-testing laboratories and laboratory quality assurance, countering money-laundering and drug abuse prevention, bearing in mind that such training may often be best delivered on a regional basis.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/33
Reduction of illicit drug demand

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[99] and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[100] adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

Recognizing that the rapid evolution of the socio-economic situation, combined with cultural, personal and social factors and compounded by the availability of illicit drugs, has exacerbated the global problem of consumption of psychoactive substances,

Conscious that the problem of consumption has a greater impact on populations at risk, in particular children and young people, who, for various family and cultural reasons, have become more vulnerable and susceptible to illicit drug consumption and hazardous behaviour regarding illicit drugs,

Aware that programmes for the reduction of illicit drug demand must form part of a global strategy and that, if they are integrated and coordinated so as to offer a wide variety of appropriate measures in the community and in the education, health, labour and social welfare sectors, they will enable the targeted persons, families and communities to diminish the adverse effects of improper drug use,

Considering that the world drug problem must be dealt with on the basis of shared responsibility, which requires an integrated and balanced approach, offering people comprehensive care that will foster their development as individuals and within the community,

1. *Supports* the implementation of programmes for the reduction of illicit drug demand with global impact and scope that target the people at risk of consuming illicit drugs and the problems associated with illicit drug consumption, to be implemented in an integrated and coordinated manner in the community and in the education, health, labour and social welfare sectors;

2. *Invites* Member States to share their experience with models for intervention in the various sectors with a view to restructuring their programmes for the reduction of illicit drug demand so that the programmes will have greater impact.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

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[99] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

[100] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 A to E.

2003/34
International assistance to the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/21 of 24 July 2002 and the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together,[101] the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[102] and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[103]

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/16 of 24 July 2001 on international assistance to the States most affected by transit of drugs,

Taking note of the second biennial report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly,[104] his report on international assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs[105] and other relevant reports submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-sixth session,

Bearing in mind the principle of shared responsibility and the need for all States to promote and implement the actions necessary to counter the world drug problem and crimes related to that problem,

Acknowledging efforts by national authorities and the international community, including the United Nations International Drug Control Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to reduce the demand for, and to combat international trafficking in, illicit drugs,

Noting the fact that the transit States continue to face grave and multifaceted challenges, owing to both the problems related to illicit drug trafficking and supply and the rising levels of drug abuse resulting from the transiting of illicit drugs through their territories,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen law enforcement capacities at all levels and the importance of inter-agency coordination to the achievement of effective drug control strategies addressing all aspects of the world drug problem,

Recognizing the need to provide, for that purpose, international assistance to the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs,

1. *Encourages* the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs to continue to implement and strengthen law enforcement initiatives at all levels and cross-border cooperation between transit States, as well as countries of destination, with a view to promoting coordinated drug control activities and unified responses to drug trafficking;

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[101] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[102] General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.

[103] General Assembly resolutions S-20/4 A to E.

[104] E/CN.7/2003/2 and Add.1-6.

[105] E/CN.7/2003/11.

2. *Also encourages* the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs to continue to implement and strengthen comprehensive policies for the reduction of illicit drug demand;

3. *Calls upon* the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs to ensure well-coordinated and focused policies to suppress drug trafficking through greater coordination between key agencies responsible for drug law enforcement;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of voluntary funds and in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the use of general-purpose funds,[106] and Member States to facilitate such initiatives by providing assistance and technical support to the drug control authorities of the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs, in particular developing countries, including countries with economies in transition, that are in need of such assistance and support;

5. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and Member States, in providing such assistance to the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs, to integrate, subject to availability of voluntary funds and in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Commission for the use of general-purpose funds, projects for the reduction of illicit drug demand and the strengthening of treatment and rehabilitation services for drug abusers;

6. *Urges* the international financial institutions and other potential donors to provide financial assistance to the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs, including for empowering and building the capacity of locally available human resources, so that those States may intensify their efforts to combat drug trafficking and deal with its consequences, in particular increased drug addiction;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/35
Strengthening the prevention and suppression of illicit drug trafficking

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that, in order to be effective, the elimination of illicit drug crops must be based on a regional strategy that involves international cooperation, including the strengthening of capacity to prevent trafficking in illicit drugs from producer countries, taking into account the need to make alternative development products competitive,

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[106] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 8*, Part Two (E/2001/28/Rev.1 (Part II)), chap. I, resolution 44/20, annex.

Recalling that Governments have adopted various measu[illegible] promote multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation betwe[illegible]icial, law enforcement and tax authorities so as to deal in a comprehensive manner with criminal groups involved in drug trafficking,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of broad policies to eliminate illicit drug crops and of the implementation of legislation, in particular legislation to facilitate the interdiction of illicit drug shipments, in support of illicit drug crop eradication and elimination, alternative development and strong law enforcement efforts at reducing the supply of illicit drugs;

2. *Calls upon* States to adopt effective measures to strengthen international cooperation projects aimed at the prohibition and control of drug trafficking and to deal with the activities of criminal groups involved in such trafficking and the diversification of their methods and transport routes;

3. *Urges* States to include among those measures the exchange of mutual legal and investigatory assistance to combat criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, and to promote the further development of effective models for cooperation, in particular in the areas of air, sea and port control, and the enhanced monitoring of controlled precursors and chemical components.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/36

Establishment of national networks to counter money-laundering in the framework of national and international drug control plans

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[107] the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism,[108] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[109] and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism,[110]

Taking into account the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and its regional groups,

Taking into account also the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[111] devoted to countering the world drug problem together, which called for Member States to make special efforts against the laundering of money linked to drug trafficking and recommended that States adopt by the year 2003 national money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with the 1988 Convention, as well as the measures for countering money-laundering adopted at the twentieth special session,[112]

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[107] *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[108] General Assembly resolution 54/109, annex.

[109] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

[110] A/56/1002-S/2002/745, annex.

[111] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex, para. 15.

Considering that multilateral action against the modern global phenomenon of transnational organized crime and the illicit activities connected with it, in particular drug trafficking, money-laundering, corruption and the financing of terrorism, represents a commitment by States that calls for shared responsibility and coordinated activities with a view to achieving a coherent global approach in accordance with multilateral instruments,

Recognizing that the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking and other serious offences has increased throughout the world to become a global threat to the stability and security of the financial and commercial system, and even to government structures, and that concerted efforts by the international community are required in order to deal with the problems posed by organized crime and the proceeds derived from it,

Emphasizing the need for States to harmonize their legislation in order to ensure adequate coordination of their policies for preventing, monitoring, controlling and suppressing money-laundering and the financing of terrorism,

Recognizing that effective action to counter the problem of money-laundering will be possible only through international cooperation and the utilization of networked information systems that facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information between the relevant authorities of the States concerned,

Recognizing also the strategic necessity for States to have the appropriate infrastructure for analysis and financial investigation in order to combat money-laundering and the financing of transnational organized crime in a coordinated manner, using national, regional and international strategies,

Reiterating the importance of establishing and implementing national plans or strategies to combat the laundering of the proceeds of crime,

1. *Recommends* that States, in conformity with their legislation and in accordance with their capabilities, set up national networks to supplement existing regional and international networks dealing with money-laundering;

2. *Calls upon* States to consider including provisions in their national drug control plans for the establishment of national networks to enhance their respective capabilities to prevent, monitor, control and suppress serious offences connected with money-laundering and the financing of terrorist acts and in general to counter all transnational organized criminal acts;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of resources and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs guidelines for the use of general-purpose funds,[113] together with international financial institutions and the organizations involved in preventing and suppressing money-laundering and drug trafficking, to facilitate the provision of training and advice through technical cooperation in States, when requested, taking into account, inter alia, the

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[112] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 D.

[113] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 8*, Part Two (E/2001/28/Rev.1 (Part II)), chap. I, resolution 44/20, annex.

recommendations on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism formulated by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and its regional groups.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/37
Strengthening alternative development through trade and socio-environmental preservation

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, which states that alternative development is an important component for generating and promoting lawful, viable and sustainable economic options to illicit drug crop cultivation, that States with illicit drug crops will need continued funding to support national efforts to eliminate drug crops and that the success of alternative development programmes depends, inter alia, on the long-term political and financial commitment of the Governments of the affected countries and the international community,[114]

Reaffirming Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/14, in which the Commission invited Member States to make more comprehensive and determined efforts in the area of financial and technical cooperation aimed at promoting alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, and urged the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to enlarge its base of donors and to use available voluntary resources to increase the financial and technical assistance that it provided to alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development,

Aware of the importance of programmes promoting alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development,

Urging Member States to consider that the presence of illicit drug crops and illicit cultivation and production leads to the degradation of the environment,

Noting with concern that the existence of illicit crops and illicit cultivation and production seriously damages the environment and causes severe socio-economic problems, in particular for highly vulnerable populations, and that effective crop control strategies require an integrated and balanced approach, in particular alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development,

1. *Urges* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and all Member States to continue to cooperate effectively on programmes to promote alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the provisions of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/14;

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[114] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E, paras. 8 and 9.

2. *Calls upon* the international community and Member States to promote an economic environment that is favourable to products from alternative development and that facilitates the access of such products to international markets as an effective and efficient means of eliminating the illicit economy;

3. *Reiterates* the necessity to encourage access to international markets for products, including produce from alternative development areas;

4. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility and as a sign of their commitment to the fight against illicit drugs, to extend cooperation in the area of alternative development to include technical assistance, support for the protection of the environment, sustainable development of forest resources, creation of social and productive infrastructure and promotion of private investment and agro-industry, as well as facilitation of the access of alternative development products to markets;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to share their experience in programmes to eliminate or reduce illicit crop cultivation, thereby taking into account common socio-economic and environmental factors, and to encourage the participation of local inhabitants in such programmes;

6. *Encourages* Member States, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and non-governmental organizations to focus attention on measures designed to protect society, in particular, highly vulnerable populations, and the environment from the harmful effects of illicit drugs;

7. *Resolves* to promote the implementation of programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of voluntary funds, which might be from general-purpose funds, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,[115] or from earmarked funds, and programmes of other relevant organizations for alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, through an integrated approach to the development of vulnerable areas that includes strategies for the preservation of the environment, security, monitoring, education, health, sanitation and community development.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/38

Funding of travel for participants in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 53/115 of 9 December 1998, 54/132 of 17 December 1999, 55/65 of 4 December 2000 and 56/124 of 19 December 2001, in which the Assembly stressed the importance of the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, in all regions of the world, and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle

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[115] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 8*, Part Two (E/2008/26/Rev.1 (Part II)), chap. I, resolution 44/20, annex.

East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and encouraged them to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly,

Recalling also its resolution 1985/11 of 28 May 1985, in which it requested the Secretary-General to convene regular meetings of the operational heads of the national drug control and law enforcement agencies of States in the African region to study questions related to illicit drug traffic in the region and to establish more effective mechanisms for cooperation and mutual assistance in the suppression of illicit drug traffic within, from and into the region,

Recalling further its resolution 1987/34 of 26 May 1987, in which it invited the Governments of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries and other interested Governments to participate in the regional meeting of the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies with a view to establishing the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, and requested the Secretary-General to adopt the necessary measures and to provide the financial resources required for holding the regional meeting,

Recalling its resolution 1988/15 of 25 May 1988, in which it requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to convene annually the Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean and to provide the financial resources required from available resources and, if necessary, to seek additional extrabudgetary resources,

Recalling also its resolution 1992/28 of 30 July 1992, on improvement of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in which it requested the Commission to examine further, on a regular basis, the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Recalling further Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/2, in which the Commission reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to provide the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies with the financial resources to assist those States which could not otherwise be represented, by defraying the travel expenses for one participant from each of those States,

1. *Confirms* that the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, as subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, have the same status as the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East;

2. *Recognizes* that the annual meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies relate to the programme of work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which is funded from the regular budget of the United Nations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, from within available resources of the regular budget of the United Nations, the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies with the financial resources to assist those States which could not otherwise be represented, by defraying the travel expenses for one participant from each of those States, as is done for the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/39

Strengthening systems of control over chemical precursors and preventing their diversion and trafficking

The Economic and Social Council,

Convinced that the transnational nature of the world drug problem and related offences requires the effective application of the principles of shared responsibility and a holistic and balanced approach,

Noting that the availability of chemical precursors makes it possible to extract, refine and synthesize illicit drugs of natural or synthetic origin,

Noting General Assembly resolution S-20/4 B of 10 June 1998 on the control of precursors, adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together,

Stressing the importance of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/12 on the diversion of precursors and prompt reporting to competent authorities of the countries of origin and the countries of transit and the International Narcotics Control Board,

Concerned at the fact that the diversion of chemical precursors is related to, inter alia, the manufacture of illicit drugs,

Observing that transnational criminal organizations have taken advantage of the benefits of globalization and the use of new technology to broaden the scope of their activity in this area and that, therefore, combating those organizations and the methods they use constitutes one of the greatest challenges facing the international community today,

Noting with concern the widespread use of substances substituted for controlled substances in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[116] for the purposes of extracting and refining drugs of natural or synthetic origin,

Noting the important problems posed by the diversion, smuggling and illicit trading of chemical precursors needed for the production of drugs of natural or synthetic origin,

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[116] See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

Aware that the availability of chemical precursors continues, despite the success of Operation Topaz and Operation Purple and the efforts of all countries to prevent the access of drug traffickers to chemical precursors needed in the manufacture of illicit drugs of natural and synthetic origin,

Committed to preventing, through all legal means available, access to chemical precursors by those engaged in or attempting to engage in the processing of illicit drugs,

Concerned at the fact that illicit drugs of natural and synthetic origin have spread worldwide, and recognizing that that represents a threat to all States,

1. *Urges* all States, including producing, exporting, transit and importing States, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, to exchange information, through the competent authorities established in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[116] or through law enforcement authorities, regarding suspicious transactions or shipments of substances suspected of being diverted for use in illicit drug production;

2. *Recommends* that all States ensure that they have in place fully effective systems for chemical precursor control and procedures for training personnel of control agencies and operational, regulatory and administrative staff;

3. *Calls upon* all States to inform, through the International Narcotics Control Board, the competent authorities of States about matters concerning the introduction of substances substituted for controlled substances and the use of new techniques in the synthesis, refining and extraction of illicit drugs, with a view to strengthening controls;

4. *Encourages* all States, including producing, exporting, transit and importing States, to make full use of existing channels of communication for the timely exchange of information, where possible, on enterprises that have been given penalties for improper management of chemicals, in accordance with their national legislation, as well as on routes and means of trafficking and diversion, on methods of camouflaging and on means of falsifying and manipulating customs documents, and any other information necessary to exercise more effective control;

5. *Reiterates* the vital importance of the process of prior notification of export of chemicals used in the manufacture of organic and synthetic drugs, established pursuant to article 12 of the 1988 Convention, as a mechanism for preventing the diversion of chemicals into illicit channels, and stresses the need for timely feedback following such prior notification;

6. *Also reiterates* the need to adopt measures for the application of the "know-your-client" principle by enterprises involved in production and distribution;

7. *Encourages* States and relevant international organizations to provide technical assistance that can be used to exercise more effective precursor control.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/40

Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific purposes

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/20 of 24 July 2002 and previous relevant resolutions,

Emphasizing that the need to balance the global licit supply of opiates against the legitimate demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes is central to the international strategy and policy of drug control,

Noting the fundamental need for international cooperation with the traditional supplier countries in drug control to ensure universal application of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[117] and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[118]

Reiterating that a balance between consumption and production of opiate raw materials was achieved in the past as a result of efforts made by the two traditional supplier countries, India and Turkey, together with other producer countries,

Expressing deep concern at the increase in the global production of opiate raw materials and the significant accumulation of stocks over the past few years as a consequence of the operation of market forces, which has the potential to upset the delicate balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes,

Noting the importance of opiates in pain relief therapy as advocated by the World Health Organization,

Noting also that countries differ significantly in their level of consumption of narcotic drugs and that in most developing countries the use of narcotic drugs for medical purposes has remained at an extremely low level,

1. *Urges* all Governments to continue to contribute to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials for medical and scientific purposes, the achievement of which would be facilitated by maintaining, insofar as their constitutional and legal systems permit, support to the traditional and legal supplier countries, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials;

2. *Urges* Governments of all producer countries to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[119] and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[120] to take effective measures to prevent illicit production or diversion of opiate raw materials to illicit channels, especially when increasing licit production, and welcomes the study carried out by the International Narcotics Control Board on the relative merits of different methods of producing opiate raw materials;

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[117] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[118] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[119] Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.

[120] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

3. *Urges* Governments of consumer countries to assess their licit needs for opiate raw materials realistically and to communicate those needs to the International Narcotics Control Board in order to ensure easy supply, and requests the Governments of producer countries to ensure that their future production of opiate raw materials is adjusted to conform to the actual requirements for opiate raw materials worldwide, bearing in mind the current level of global stocks of opiate raw materials, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials;

4. *Commends* the International Narcotics Control Board for its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions and, in particular:

(a) In urging the Governments concerned to adjust global production of opiate raw materials to a level corresponding to actual licit needs and to avoid unforeseen imbalances between the licit supply of and demand for opiates caused by the exportation of products manufactured from seized and confiscated drugs;

(b) In inviting the Governments concerned to ensure that opiates imported into their countries for medical and scientific use do not originate in countries that transform seized and confiscated drugs into licit opiates;

(c) In arranging informal meetings, during the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the main States that import and produce opiate raw materials;

5. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions in full compliance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and with that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Governments for consideration and implementation and to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-seventh session on progress made i the implementation of the present resolution.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/41
Efforts to counter the trend towards the legalization of drugs for non-medical use

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into account the policies adopted by organizations of the United Nations system concerning the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[121] that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[122] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[123] the United Nations Convention against Illicit

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[121] Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.

[122] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[123] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[124] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[125] in particular article 33 thereof,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[126] devoted to countering the world drug problem together, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[127] and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[128]

Recalling also that narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are controlled under the 1961 Convention, that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the 1971 Convention, which call for the States parties to those conventions to adopt all possible measures to limit the production, manufacture, export, import and distribution of, trade in and use and possession of those drugs for medical and scientific purposes if those States consider that to be the most appropriate means of protecting health and public welfare,

Conscious that increased availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, without the appropriate controls, could facilitate the diversion of those drugs,

Taking into account the reports of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2001[129] and 2002,[130]

Bearing in mind that countering the world drug problem is a shared responsibility calling for coordinated action in conformity with the relevant multilateral instruments in force at the international level,

Concerned about the increasing levels of illicit drug consumption, in particular among children, young people and groups at risk of abusing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Also concerned about the trend towards the development of lenient policies relating to cannabis and other drugs that are not in accordance with international drug control treaties and about the fact that such trends may have a negative impact on efforts being made to eradicate cannabis cultivation and to combat drug trafficking,

1. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue to monitor and report on the application of the international drug control treaties by Member States with regard to cannabis and other drugs;

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[124] *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[125] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[126] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[127] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

[128] General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.

[129] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2001* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.1).

[130] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.1).

2. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, to report on new trends with regard to cannabis.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/42
Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[131]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[132] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[133] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[134]

Recalling also its resolution 2002/25 of 24 July 2002 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[135] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis and towards the speedy achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Concerned about the grave deterioration of the situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlements activities as well as the harsh economic conditions and other severe consequences of the continuing Israeli attacks and sieges on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, which has resulted in the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Expressing its condemnation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

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[131] E/CN.6/2003/3.

[132] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[133] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[134] See General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

[135] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the international community, to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the immediate resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for measures for tangible improvement of the difficult situation on the ground and the living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[136] the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907[137] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[138] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[132] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[133] and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[134]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women",[139] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

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[136] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[137] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[138] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[139] E/CN.6/2003/3.

2003/43

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[140] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[141] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[142] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[143] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[144] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[145] and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict[146] and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[147] the Beijing Declaration[148] and Platform for Action,[149] the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,[150] accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[151] and other instruments of human rights and international law,

Recalling that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[152] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[141] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[141] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[153]

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, and 1460 (2003), on children and armed conflict,

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[140] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[141] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[142] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

[143] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[144] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[145] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[146] General Assembly resolution 54/263, annex I.

[147] Ibid., annex II.

[148] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[149] Ibid., annex II.

[150] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[151] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[152] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III), annex.

[153] A/CONF.183/9.

Recalling also the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions, signed in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001,[154]

Recalling further the funding commitments made at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,

Welcoming the establishment of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in June 2002,

Welcoming also the holding of the Emergency Loya Jirga in June 2002, establishing the Afghan Transitional Authority, and the participation of more than two hundred women in the meeting,

Welcoming further the continuing commitment of the Afghan Transitional Administration to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, to the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the opportunity for women to work outside the home,

Welcoming the return of more than three million children to school, including one million girls, since March 2002, and the international support that has made it possible,

Welcoming also the inclusion of women in the Transitional Administration, the Judicial Reform Commission, the Independent Human Rights Commission and the Constitutional Drafting Commission and stressing the importance of the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

Welcoming further the fact that the National Development Framework of the Transitional Administration reflects the needs of, and the importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace-building, reconstruction and development,

Welcoming the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, which have hosted millions of Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas, such as education, health and other basic services,

Recognizing that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs, interests and priorities in all sectors of society as full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

Emphasizing that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse, for all Afghans, is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

1. *Welcomes*:

(a) The ongoing commitments made by the Afghan Transitional Authority to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to respect and promote respect for international humanitarian law;

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[154] See S/2001/1154.

(b) The ratification by the Afghan Transitional Authority of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[143] on 5 March 2003;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;[155]

3. *Urges* the Afghan Transitional Authority to:

(a) Ensure that any legislative, administrative and other measures support the full enjoyment of women and girls of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) Enable the full, equal and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

(c) Protect the right to freedom of movement, expression and association for women and girls;

(d) Provide the necessary support and resources to enable the Ministry of Women's Affairs to function effectively, so that the Ministry can fulfil its task in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Transitional Administration;

(e) Ensure that the Judicial Reform Commission, the Constitutional Drafting Commission and the Independent Human Rights Commission have adequate resources to fulfil their mandates and ensure that gender perspectives are consistent with international standards;

(f) Affirm full support for the full, equal and effective participation of women in the constitutional process and in the Constitutional Loya Jirga; and to ensure that the principle of equality between men and women and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, are guaranteed by the new constitution;

(g) Continue its efforts to re-establish the rule of law, in accordance with international standards, including by ensuring that law enforcement agencies respect and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular emphasis on access to justice for women;

(h) Continue its efforts to reflect a gender perspective in the training and activities of its police, prosecutors and judiciary, and to promote the recruitment of Afghan women in all ranks;

(i) Review and improve the practices of law enforcement personnel when dealing with women victims of violence, particularly those accused of offences based on tradition or imprisoned for social reasons to protect them from violence by family members;

(j) Ensure that gender-sensitive approaches are applied in the development and application of procedures during data collection for the census and the registration of voters to deliver universal suffrage and the full participation of women in the national elections in 2004;

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[155] E/CN.6/2003/4

(k) Ensure the equal right of women and girls to education, the effective functioning of schools throughout the country and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(l) Respect the equal right of women to work and promote their reintegration in employment in all sectors and at all levels of Afghan society;

(m) Protect the equal right of women and girls to security of person, and to bring to justice those responsible for violence against women and girls;

(n) Initiate rapid demobilization and disarmament, and facilitate the reintegration of those, in particular women and girls, who have participated in or have otherwise been affected by war into society and work;

(o) Raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate violence, including domestic violence, against women, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to take place, and strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women by using legislative measures;

(p) Ensure the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in accordance with the obligations of Afghanistan under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;[141]

(q) Ensure the equal right of women to own land and other property, inter alia, through the right to inheritance, and undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to and control over natural resources as well as access to markets and information;

4. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, donors and civil society, guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, to:

(a) Provide financial and technical assistance, including support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls so as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate fully and effectively in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

(b) Fully support the Afghan Transitional Authority regarding the participation of women in society, inter alia, by providing support to ministries to develop their capacity to mainstream gender issues into their programmes;

(c) Provide technical and other relevant assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

(d) Support measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, and to hold accountable those who were responsible for gross violations of human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators brought to justice in accordance with international standards in order to combat impunity;

5. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, and donors to:

(a) Ensure a human rights-based approach and coherent policy and resources for gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) Ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

(c) Support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights, and encourage the involvement of women therein;

(d) Ensure that all their international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive training in gender equality as well as appropriate training in the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of human rights;

(e) Integrate efforts to improve the health status of women within all reconstruction efforts, especially through access to skilled prenatal care, increasing access to skilled birth attendance, education programmes on basic health issues, community information activities and emergency obstetric care;

(f) Continue to support measures for the employment of women and the integration of a gender perspective into all social, development and reconstruction programmes, taking into account the special needs of widows and returning refugee and displaced women and girls as well as those living in rural areas;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that the post of Senior Gender Adviser in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is filled immediately and with due regard to the need for continuity in this task;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/44

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women

The Economic and Social Council,

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session with respect to participation in and access of women to the media and on information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women:

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[156] and the outcome document adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century",[157] on the potential of the media and of information and communications technologies to contribute to the advancement and empowerment of women. It also recalls the United Nations Millennium Declaration[158] and its Development Goals to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease, to stimulate development that is truly sustainable and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all.

2. The Commission notes that, globally, there are substantial differences in participation in, access to and use of media and information and communications technologies, their content and production. Such differences have important implications for policy development at national, regional and international levels. A focus on the gender dimensions of information and communications technologies is essential in order to prevent and combat any adverse impact of the digital revolution on gender equality and the perpetuation of existing inequalities and discrimination, including the sexual exploitation of women both through the traditional media and new technologies. The media and information and communication technologies also offer tools for enhancing women's full access to the benefits of information and new technologies and can become central tools for women's empowerment and the promotion of gender equality. Efforts are therefore necessary to increase women's access to and participation in the media and information and communication technologies, including in their decision-making processes and new opportunities created through information and communication technologies.

3. The Commission welcomes the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society, which is to be held in Geneva in December 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, and urges all participants to take the following recommendations into account and to integrate gender perspectives in every facet of the Summit. It further encourages the participation of women in the Summit, to include significant numbers of gender equality experts and women experts in the field of information and communication technology as members of national delegations, organizations of civil society and the business community.

4. The Commission urges Governments and, as appropriate, the relevant funds and programmes, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders, to take the following actions:

(a) Prioritize the integration of gender perspectives and ensure women's early and full participation in the development and implementation of national policies, legislation, programmes, projects, strategies and regulatory and technical instruments in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) and media and communications, and create monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure implementation of gender-sensitive policies and regulations as well as to analyse the gender impact of such policies in consultation and collaboration with women information technology specialists, women's organizations and gender equality advocates;

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[156] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[157] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[158] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

(b) Encourage regulatory bodies, where they exist, to promote full participation of women in the ownership, control and management in the ICT and media sectors;

(c) Include gender perspectives and measurable gender-specific targets in all programmes and projects on ICT for development, as well as specific activities, as appropriate, for women and girls as active users of information;

(d) Remove ICT-related infrastructural barriers that disproportionately affect women and girls and promote the establishment of affordable and accessible ICT-related infrastructure for all women and girls, bearing in mind the specific needs and interests of women and girls living in countries in the process of peace-building and reconstruction;

(e) Invite, as appropriate, through partnerships, or through the use of self-regulatory gender-sensitive guidelines and self-regulatory gender-sensitive guidelines for media coverage and representation, public and community media to work in support of gender equality, bearing in mind the importance of providing financial resources and other support;

(f) Support research into all aspects of the impact of the media and ICT on women and girls, in particular into their information needs and interests, review existing media and ICT policies and find ways to adapt ICT to the needs of poor and, in particular, illiterate women, in order to overcome barriers and support women's empowerment;

(g) Make education, formal and non-formal, a priority in particular for the development of ICT and take measures to promote girls' education so as to enable girls and women to gain access to ICT;

(h) Include, at appropriate levels of government, ICT education for girls and women in curricula at all educational levels, from early childhood to tertiary level, as well as in continuing education, in order to promote and ensure women's full participation in the information society;

(i) Take concrete steps to increase the number of female students at all educational levels in media- and ICT-related subjects, including science, mathematics and technology, including through such methods as distance- and e-learning;

(j) Establish or, where they already exist, expand skills training, vocational and employment training and capacity-building programmes for women and girls and women's non-governmental organizations on the use, design and production of ICT, including preparing them to take on leadership roles and promote their participation in the political process, and integrate a gender perspective in ICT training programmes for teachers and in training programmes for media professionals;

(k) Enable equal access for women to ICT-based economic activities, such as small business and home-based employment, to information systems and improved technologies and to new employment opportunities in this area, and consider developing tele-centres, information centres, community access points and business incubators;

(l) Strengthen partnerships among all stakeholders to build the capacity of women to fully participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, the information society, including e-governance, where it exists and as it is developed, and participatory approaches;

(m) Ensure equal opportunities for women and monitor gender representation in different categories and levels of work, education and training in the media and ICT areas, with a view to increasing women's participation in decision-making at all levels of ICT and the media;

(n) Provide management, negotiation and leadership training for women, as well as mentoring systems and other support strategies and programmes to enhance women's capabilities and potential for advancement in the media and ICT sectors;

(o) Take effective measures, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, to combat the growing sexualization and use of pornography in media content, in terms of the rapid development of ICT, encourage the media to refrain from presenting women as inferior beings and exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities, combat ICT- and media-based violence against women, including criminal misuse of ICT for sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and trafficking in women and girls, and support the development and use of ICT as a resource for the empowerment of women and girls, including those affected by violence, abuse and other forms of sexual exploitation;

(p) Respect the value of different and local languages and promote and encourage local knowledge systems and locally produced content in media and communications, support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programmes in local languages, as appropriate, with content relevant to different groups of women, and build the capacity of girls and women to develop ICT content;

(q) Encourage South-South cooperation to facilitate transfer and exchange of low-cost technologies and appropriate ICT content between developing countries for the benefit of women and girls;

(r) Strengthen and encourage the use of existing information and communication technologies, such as radio, television, telecommunications and print, in parallel in order to enhance the use of new technologies for gender equality and the economic, political and social empowerment of women as leaders, participants and consumers and recognize that women and girls are potentially large-scale consumers, users and producers of ICT and media;

(s) Collect, share, positively recognize and widely publicize good practices to counter gender stereotyping, negative portrayals and exploitation of women in all forms of the media and ICT as part of their efforts to eliminate discrimination and violence against women;

(t) Increase efforts to compile, and disaggregate by sex and age, statistics on ICT use, in order to develop gender-specific indicators on ICT use and needs and to collect gender-specific data on employment and education patterns in the media and in ICT professions;

(u) Provide adequate and appropriate resources for innovative, affordable, accessible and sustainable media and ICT programmes, projects and products that support gender equality and gender mainstreaming, are relevant to the concerns of women and girls and provide support to women's online communities and networks that promote gender equality;

(v) Prioritize the allocation of resources to support programmes, projects and strategies that aim at increasing women's participation in, and equal access to, the information society, including vocational, scientific and technical training, literacy training and capacity-building programmes;

(w) Enhance, for the benefit of women and girls, international cooperation in support of national efforts to create an enabling environment to reduce the digital and information divide between developed and developing countries and promote, develop and enhance access to ICT, including the Internet infrastructure by facilitating access to, and transfer of, knowledge and technology on concessional, preferential and favourable terms to the developing countries, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special needs of developing countries;

(x) Strengthen the capacity of national machineries for the advancement of women, including through the allocation of adequate and appropriate resources and the provision of technical expertise, to take a lead advocacy role with respect to media and ICT and gender equality, support their involvement in national, regional and international processes related to media and ICT issues and enhance coordination among ministries responsible for ICT, national machineries for the advancement of women, the private sector and national non-governmental organizations working in the field of gender advocacy.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

2003/45

The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/28 of 22 April 2003, in which the Commission highlighted the importance of enhancing the international community's response to violence by strengthening prevention efforts at the national level and through international cooperation,

1. *Recommends* that the General Assembly declare 2007 the United Nations Year for Violence Prevention;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to submit to the Council a draft programme of action for the Year.

45th plenary meeting
23 July 2003

2003/46
Long-term programme of support for Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1999/11 of 27 July 1999, 2001/25 of 26 July 2001 and 2002/22 of 24 July 2002, and its decision 2000/235 of 27 July 2000,

Taking note of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the long-term programme of support for Haiti,[159]

Welcoming the efforts of the Organization of American States, including its Special Mission to Strengthen Democracy in Haiti, and of the Caribbean Community to mediate dialogue and promote reconciliation in order to strengthen the political environment in Haiti necessary for the promotion of economic and social development and the alleviation of poverty,

Welcoming also the report of the United Nations independent expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti,[160] noting the statement by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session,[161] and further encouraging the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Human Rights in this regard,

Noting the launching of the Integrated Emergency Response Programme: Targeting Vulnerable Groups and Communities in Haiti by the United Nations country team for Haiti on 22 April 2003,

1. *Requests* that the Secretary-General, in coordination with the United Nations resident coordinator in Haiti, report on progress achieved in implementing the long-term programme of support for Haiti and that the report be prepared for the Economic and Social Council on the basis of developments in Haiti;

2. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Long-term programme of support for Haiti" in the agenda of its substantive session of 2004.

45th plenary meeting
23 July 2003

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[159] E/2003/54.

[160] E/CN.4/2003/116.

[161] E/CN.4/2003/L.10/Add.1, para. 28.

2003/47
International Conference on Financing for Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which the Assembly endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[162] adopted on 22 March 2002,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/34 of 26 July 2002,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 51/270 of 20 December 2002 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recognizing the crucial importance of proper follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and other agreements and commitments reached at the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Stressing the importance of staying fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, both in order to ensure proper follow-up to the implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the International Conference on Financing for Development and to continue to build bridges between development, finance and trade organizations and initiatives, within the framework of the holistic agenda of the Conference,

Recognizing the link between financing for development and attaining internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[163] in measuring development progress and helping to guide development priorities, as well as achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, bearing in mind the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[164]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, held in New York on 14 April 2003,[165] which constitutes an important input provided by the Council to the high-level dialogue on financing for development, which is to be held by the General Assembly in October 2003;

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up efforts to the International Conference on Financing for Development;[166]

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[162] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[163] See General Assembly resolution 55/2

[164] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* and corrigendum (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and Corr.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[165] A/58/77-E/2003/62 and Add.1 and 2.

[166] A/57/319-E/2002/85.

3. *Takes note further* of the establishment of the Financing for Development Office in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/273 of 20 December 2002;

4. *Reaffirms* its commitment to contribute to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[162] both in the context of its general mandate to follow-up and support the implementation of commitments adopted at all major United Nations conferences, including the Millennium Summit, and as an important process in its own right, and in that regard attaches priority to four broad tasks related to follow-up activities: (a) to promote coherence and an integrated approach within the United Nations; (b) to intensify interactions with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, as well as other institutional stakeholders; (c) to continue involving other relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector; and (d) to prepare inputs for consideration by the General Assembly;

5. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the interactive dialogue of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization,[165] which constituted an important and successful step in the follow-up process provided for in paragraph 69 of the Monterrey Consensus;

6. *Decides* to build on the experience accumulated during the high-level meeting of the Council in 2003 in convening and organizing the next high-level spring meeting to address issues of coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, examining further specific steps that could be taken by each of the stakeholders to move the Monterrey process forward;

7. *Decides also* to include representatives of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

8. *Decides further* that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other institutional stakeholders, will prepare the necessary documentation for the next high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council, and decides to invite all institutional stakeholders to provide the Secretary-General with interim reports during the first quarter of 2004 on the work undertaken and planned in their respective areas of competence regarding implementation of the different components of the Monterrey Consensus, with the understanding that those reports will be essential inputs to the preparation of the meeting;

9. *Welcomes* the continued participation of non-governmental organizations and the business sector in the Monterrey process, expresses its readiness to continue its work in the innovative and participatory spirit that characterized the International Conference on Financing for Development, strengthening the role of the Council in its interaction with non-governmental organizations and the business sector at its annual spring meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, and stresses that the specific modalities and formats to give concrete expression to that commitment should continue to be decided by the Council, in

accordance with its rules of procedure and the accreditation procedures and modalities of participation utilized at the Conference and in its preparatory process.

47th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/48

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics[167] and the initiatives of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics,

Recognizing the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communication technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all official languages,

1. *Reiterates* the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members and observers of the United Nations, as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations to such databases, systems and services shall not prejudice the access of Member States nor impose an additional financial burden for their use;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, its work of facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and of continuing the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives, and, in this regard, requests the Working Group to continue its efforts in order to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat;

3. *Supports* the efforts of the Working Group to keep intact the network of national focal points established in connection with the year 2000 problem as a vehicle for the diffusion of best practices and lessons learned, in particular for the exchange of information on locally and regionally appropriate solutions and, in this regard, appeals once again to countries and other sources to provide the extrabudgetary resources necessary to maintain the mailing list of the national focal points;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

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[167] E/2003/75.

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2004 on the action taken to follow up the present resolution; including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.

47th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/49
Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, and its decision to establish the regular sub-item "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system" in order to, inter alia, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, and to consider further measures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

Also recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[168] and its subsequent decision to devote a coordination segment before 2005 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of those agreed conclusions,

Affirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[169] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[170]

Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting gender mainstreaming,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[171] especially on measures taken by the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies to mainstream a gender perspective into their work;

2. *Decides* to undertake, during its coordination segment in 2004, a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system;

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[168] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[169] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[170] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and 3.

[171] E/2003/69.

3. *Calls upon* Member States and all other actors of the United Nations system to continue to mainstream a gender perspective into all activities at all levels;

4. *Decides* to intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work, and therefore to give appropriate attention to gender perspectives and the particular obstacles that women face in all its segments and agenda items, both during discussions and in outcomes;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to its subsidiary bodies for the progress made in giving attention to situations that are specific to women and to the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into their work, for example by:

(a) Reiterating that gender equality is a goal in itself as well as a means in the more effective pursuit of their specific mandates;

(b) Highlighting gender equality as a cross-cutting issue;

6. *Calls upon* its subsidiary bodies to further intensify their efforts to mainstream gender perspectives in their work, and encourages them to strengthen the practical guidance provided in resolutions, decisions, agreed conclusions and other outcomes so as to accelerate the consistent use of gender mainstreaming in all policies and programmes at all levels;

7. *Also calls upon* its subsidiary bodies to continue their efforts to address gender perspectives in relation to the thematic issues of their multi-year programmes of work or in relation to their annual themes;

8. *Calls upon* the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies to consider how best to facilitate the inclusion of a gender perspective in their work;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of its subsidiary bodies increasing their collaboration with the Commission on the Status of Women, including by making more systematic use of the output of the Commission, and encourages the Commission to continue its efforts to identify gender issues in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its other subsidiary bodies and assist them in pursuing these issues;

10. *Invites* its Bureau to include on the agenda of meetings with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies an item on progress made and obstacles encountered in gender mainstreaming;

11. *Encourages* the President of the Council to include, on the agenda of meetings with the Chairpersons of its subsidiary bodies, an item on enhanced coordination on gender mainstreaming between the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

12. *Encourages* the collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and other gender-specific studies and information and all gender-analysis budgets by the United Nations system and its subsidiary bodies;

13. *Also encourages* the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women to maintain their efforts to raise awareness of gender issues across the United Nations system;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the expanded efforts of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to support gender mainstreaming in a growing number of sectors, especially its efforts to ensure that gender perspectives are addressed systematically by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and in this regard encourages the Board in its efforts to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the United Nations system;

15. *Encourages* United Nations bodies to promote inter-agency arrangements through the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality for increased coordination and partnership on gender issues across the United Nations system;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts by the regional commissions to promote gender mainstreaming and improve the situation of women, and encourages the regional commissions to intensify those efforts;

17. *Underlines* the importance of reports to intergovernmental bodies consistently giving attention to gender equality through systematic and rigorous analysis of the issues involved, and presenting issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner so as to give concrete and practical recommendations and serve as an analytical basis for those bodies to undertake gender responsive policy formulation in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1997/2;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including on progress on gender mainstreaming, to the next substantive session of the Council;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report recommendations for the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

47th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/50
Ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/1 of 15 July 2002 on the establishment of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict,

1. *Reiterates* the need to undertake an assessment of lessons learned based on the initial experience of such ad hoc advisory groups, no later than at its substantive session of 2004;

2. *Stresses* the need to assess also progress made in the implementation of recommendations made by the ad hoc advisory groups;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a report on this subject to its substantive session in 2004.

47th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/51

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[172] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[173]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/30 of 25 July 2002,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, now the African Union, the South Pacific Forum, now the Pacific Islands Forum, and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration,

Welcoming the participation, in the capacity of observer, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in United Nations world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, as well as in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[174]

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[172] A/58/66.

[173] E/2003/47.

[174] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/140 of 11 December 2002, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[173] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[174]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

10. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

11. *Welcomes* the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

12. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

13. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the meetings and conferences on specific Territories held by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

14. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 2003 of the Economic and Social Council;

16. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998[175] calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

17. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2004;

19. *Decides* to keep these questions under continuous review.

47th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

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[175] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G.

2003/52
Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 26 July 1991, 1993/60 of 30 July 1993, 1995/48 of 27 July 1995, 1997/48 of 22 July 1997, 1999/37 of 28 July 1999 and 2001/29 of 26 July 2001,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe[176] regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Referring also to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, held at Barcelona in November 1995, and to the work programme annexed thereto, aimed at connecting the Mediterranean transport networks to the trans-European transport network so as to ensure their interoperability,

Referring further to the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the Conference on Transport in the Mediterranean, held at Lisbon in January 1997, and to the conclusions of the Pan-European Transport Conference, held at Helsinki in June 1997, on corridors in the Mediterranean incorporating the permanent link,

Taking note of the conclusions of the second and third meetings of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group, held at Rabat in September 1995 and at Madrid in January 1997, and of the conclusions of the meeting held at Brussels in 2000 by the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport, which constitutes a framework for coordination among the countries of the Mediterranean basin, for the development of integrated transport networks,

Taking note also of the conclusions of the study on transport infrastructure in the six countries of the western Mediterranean (INFRAMED), carried out by the Western Mediterranean Transport Group in 1998, which is currently being updated with funding by the European Commission, for the establishment of an integrated network in the Mediterranean basin,

Taking note in addition of the follow-up report prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with resolution 2001/29,[177] submitted for that purpose, which refers to further project studies, with the aim, in particular, of supplementing the related geological and geotechnical research,

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and specialized international organizations;

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[176] See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, fortieth ordinary session (third part), 30 Janaury-3 February 1989, *Texts adopted by the Assembly*, Strasbourg, France, 1989.

[177] E/2003/45.

2. *Also welcomes* the efforts made to date in deep-sea drilling work, which have provided a decisive impetus to geological and geotechnical knowledge of undersea formations, and invites the two sponsoring countries and the organizations concerned to intensify their cooperation in order to finalize the project studies;

3. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa on the work done in preparing the project follow-up report[177] requested by the Council in its resolution 2001/29;

4. *Renews* its invitation to the competent organizations of the United Nations system and to specialized governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the studies and operations on the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2005;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, the resources necessary, within the regular budget, to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, to enable them to carry out the activities mentioned above.

47th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/53
Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, in which the Council decided to consider creating, at the request of any African country emerging from conflict, an ad hoc advisory group, and its decision 2002/304 of 25 October 2002, in which the Council decided to establish such a group on Guinea-Bissau,

Recalling also its resolution 2003/1 of 31 January 2003, in which the Council took note with appreciation of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau,[178] welcomed its recommendations, endorsed the partnership approach it set out and decided to extend the mandate of the Advisory Group until the substantive session of the Council in July 2003,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the supplementary report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau,[179] and welcomes the interaction and cooperation that has taken place between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, within their respective mandates, on the situation in Guinea-Bissau;

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[178] E/2003/8.

[179] E/2003/95.

2. *Reiterates* the need to foster a comprehensive approach to the problems faced by Guinea-Bissau in its post-conflict phase, in particular to prepare a long-term programme of support, based on its development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development needs;

3. *Reiterates also* its invitation to the Government of Guinea-Bissau, and, within their respective mandates, to the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the donor community and the international community as a whole to give full consideration to the recommendations formulated by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and to take specific and concrete steps to give effect to the partnership approach that it set out, with a view to addressing the short-term needs and implementing a long-term programme of support;

4. *Welcomes* the progress made with the creation by the United Nations Development Programme of the Emergency Economic Management Fund, following the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in its report[180] and the trust fund set up for the elections, and appeals to donor countries to contribute to these funds;

5. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group until the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council in January 2004, with the current membership, including those invited members, with the purpose of monitoring the implementation of its recommendations, following closely the humanitarian situation and economic and social conditions prevailing in the country and providing an assessment of its work through a report to be submitted to the Council;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the United Nations Development Group, as well as other relevant United Nations funds, programmes and the specialized agencies to continue to assist the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in accomplishing its mandate, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to continue to cooperate to that end.

48th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/54
Information and communication technologies for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the first annual report of the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force,[181]

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[180] E/2003/8, para. 48 (a).

[181] E/2003/56.

Welcomes the achievements of the Task Force thus far, its orientation towards the use of information and communication technologies in the advancement of the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, its support of the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society and its work, including through its regional networks and working groups and regional nodes on information and communication technologies issues.

48th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/55

Preparations for an international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 57/262 of 20 December 2002 to convene an international meeting in 2004 in Mauritius, including a high-level segment, for a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[182]

Also recalling the decision to convene regional and interregional preparatory meetings of small island developing States,

Further recalling the decision to invite the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, to consider its role in the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting the preliminary discussion of the issues by the Commission at its eleventh session in its consideration of its role in the preparations for the international meeting,

1. *Decides* that the Commission on Sustainable Development, during its twelfth session in 2004, will convene a three-day preparatory meeting for an international meeting for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[182] and will finalize the preparations for the international meeting, including its agenda;

2. *Also decides* that the three-day preparatory meeting shall consider a synthesis report, to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of the recommendations contained in:

(a) National assessment reports of small island developing States, where available;

(b) Expert thematic workshop reports;

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[182] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

(c) Reports of the regional and interregional preparatory meetings referred to in paragraph 6 below on the implementation of the Programme of Action;

3. *Invites* the international donor and development community and international organizations to provide information, on or before 31 January 2004, on their activities in support of the Programme of Action, as well as on recommendations for further action in support of its full implementation, and requests that the information provided be considered by the Secretary-General in the preparation of the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 2 above;

4. *Welcomes* the work in progress in all small island developing States to continue and enhance their preparations for the international meeting, and calls upon the international community, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies to support the efforts of small island developing States in their preparations of national assessment reports to be completed by July 2003, given that national reports are a critical component for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action in providing information on respective national circumstances;

5. *Emphasizes* that in the preparation of the reporting referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above, the provisions of paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 57/262 should be taken into account, and invites the Secretary-General to make full use of the Small Island Developing States Information Network in his efforts to disseminate the various reports;

6. *Welcomes*, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 57/262, the regional preparatory meetings for:

(a) Pacific small island developing States, to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 4 to 8 August 2003;

(b) Caribbean small island developing States, to be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 18 to 22 August 2003;

(c) Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas small island developing States, to be held in Praia, Cape Verde, from 1 to 5 September 2003;

(d) As well as an interregional preparatory meeting, with ministerial participation, for all small island developing States, to be held in Nassau, Bahamas, from 26 to 30 January 2004;

7. *Encourages* Governments and participants at the high-level segment of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to also address, within the thematic cluster of issues for that session, matters related to the sustainable development of small island developing States and the Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* the international community, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies to support regional initiatives and to collaborate closely, in partnership with the regional organizations and institutions, to expedite preparations for the review, noting the work already done by the regional organizations and institutions, bearing in mind the coordinating role assigned to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat by the General Assembly, and to the Department's Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States Branch in its capacity as Chair of the inter-agency task force for the international meeting;

9. *Reiterates* the need for the full participation of small island developing States in the preparatory process leading up to, as well as during, the international meeting, and invites Governments and international and regional intergovernmental organizations to contribute to the voluntary fund called for in paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 57/262;

10. *Reiterates also* the need for the effective participation of associate members of the regional commissions, and calls for their participation to be facilitated through the voluntary fund referred to in paragraph 9 above;

11. *Invites* interested Governments and donor organizations to support the participation of major groups in the preparatory process and in the international meeting itself;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to work within existing resources and especially to utilize fully the savings from the budget that would result from not implementing the two intersessional meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development as programmed in 2003 and voluntary contributions, as necessary, for the preparatory process referred to above.

48th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/56
Science and technology for development

I. Technology development, capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its theme on "Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society", and noting the findings, which indicate, inter alia, the following:

(a) Information and communication technologies (ICT) create new opportunities to tackle the problems of poverty, poor communications, economic stagnation and environmental degradation. At the same time, they generate new challenges, especially for those countries in which technological capability, skill capacity and supporting infrastructure are not sufficiently developed;

(b) The diffusion of ICT throughout the world is extremely uneven. Many of the developing countries face significant barriers in access to and effective applications of ICT owing to limited telecommunications infrastructure, low computer literacy levels and lack of a regulatory framework;

(c) ICT will continue to play an increasingly important role in development. Most developing countries are not in a position to compete with industrialized countries at the frontier of innovation. The most effective way of raising the level of technology in developing countries is therefore through acquisition of technology from the industrialized countries. The experience of successful economies suggests that foreign direct investment has a crucial role to play in the acquisition of technology by developing countries;

(d) Mere transfer and imports of new technology through foreign direct investment and other channels do not ensure technology acquisition. In order to build capacity to acquire and master technology, it is essential that Governments build a sound human resources capital and put in place credible and more focused long-term policies and regulations that encourage the active international transfer, effective diffusion and development of technology;

(e) In order to facilitate and promote ICT use in developing countries, there is a need for an enhanced partnership between Governments, the private sector, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations;

Heeding the call of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 2000 to work cooperatively to bridge the digital divide and to foster "digital opportunity",

Decides to recommend the following actions for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the international community:

1. Governments are encouraged to undertake the following actions:

(a) Utilize the benchmarking tools developed by the Commission to assess their progress in ICT development and to establish mechanisms involving all stakeholders for the ongoing review, evaluation and analysis of ICT strategies, programmes and projects, including strategies to facilitate the attraction of foreign direct investment in ICT;

(b) Accelerate investment in ICT human capacity-building and promote computer literacy and lifelong learning;

(c) Build up physical and institutional infrastructure to facilitate ICT development and improve efficiency and transparency through e-government;

(d) Develop policy initiatives in order to facilitate the building of regional level ICT infrastructure;

(e) Develop strategies to facilitate access to and lower costs of ICT hardware and software through providing tax incentives and encouraging the use and further development of free and open source software;

(f) Apply innovative approaches with a focus on shared infrastructure, public access facilities and the use of intermediaries and other services to interact with individuals who may lack functional literacy;

(g) Establish a regulatory framework that supports infrastructure development and accelerate deployment of appropriate and cost-effective technologies;

(h) Promote sustained measures to ensure the mastery and adaptation of technology by creating and/or strengthening local research and development units, promoting foreign direct investment with high-technology content and fostering collaboration in research and development between foreign investors and domestic research institutions;

(i) Develop strategies for local content development, including the use of icon-based programmes and the integration of traditional mass media, print, television and radio, with electronic media;

2. The international community is invited to:

(a) Promote the compilation of more appropriate data on technology indicators, taking into account that that there is a lack of data for many developing countries, which typically have a large informal sector so that more accurate ICT and technology development indices could be developed;

(b) Reaffirm the right of developing countries to use to the full the flexibilities provided in international agreements such as the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights;

3. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is invited to:

(a) Interact closely with the ICT Task Force to promote greater information-exchange and coordination of activities in the field of ICT in order to contribute to the World Summit on the Information Society and, as feasible, update its publication *Knowledge Societies: Information Technologies for Sustainable Development* in order to raise awareness on recent developments in the field of ICT;

(b) Play an active role within the United Nations system in the analysis, promotion and recommendation of applications of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(c) Ensure that the Science and Technology for Development Network[183] further develops and expands into an inter-agency gateway on information on science and technology activities, which also links information technology networks at the regional, subregional and interregional levels to the network;

(d) Liaise with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to further develop its benchmarking tool in ICT, promote its use by other relevant United Nations agencies and consider the possibility of carrying out ICT needs assessment for interested developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to help formulate/update national strategies and action plans for ICT, coordinating efforts with the United Nations Development Programme and other entities carrying out similar work in order to promote complementarity and efficiency.

II. New substantive theme and other activities

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcomes the choice of the theme "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration for the Commission's work during the intersessional period 2003-2004. In undertaking work on this theme, the Commission is invited to analyse policies and measures that would lead to:

(a) Improving the policy environment for the application of science and technology to development by identifying potential risks and benefits of new and emerging technologies;

(b) Strengthening basic and applied research in developing countries and international scientific networking;

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[183] http://r0.unctad.org/stdev/.

(c) Strengthening technology support institutions and science advisory mechanisms; building human capacity; identifying new technologies and applications; and encouraging international collaboration to support research in neglected fields;

(d) Promoting affordable universal Internet access and building strategic partnerships in the field of science and technology for development and capacity-building for competitiveness "taking care to ensure complementarity with efforts under way by other organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, and to promote efficiency".

All entities of the United Nations system working in these areas are invited to collaborate and provide input to the work of the Commission on its main theme.

III. Strengthening coordination of science and technology for development in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with appreciation the work carried out by the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, including at the regional and national levels,

Requests the Commission to take into account the need to meaningfully and systematically integrate a gender component into all its programmes and to improve its collaboration with its Gender Advisory Board.

48th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/57

Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling all of its resolutions aimed at the revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in particular its resolutions 1999/54 of 29 July 1999, 2000/24 of 28 July 2000 and 2001/40 of 26 July 2001,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/125 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly decided to establish a Working Group on the Future Operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Taking note of the report of the Working Group,[184] which contained a series of recommendations aimed at the revitalization and strengthening of the Institute,

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[184] A/57/330 and Add.1

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/175 of 18 December 2002, in which the Assembly decided to adopt the recommendations of the Working Group and to request the Secretary-General to implement the measures recommended by the Group in this regard,

Taking note of the preliminary report of the Working Group, submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-seventh session,[185] which highlighted the need for the Economic and Social Council to amend the statute of the Institute,

Recalling decision 47/101 of the Commission on the Status of Women, of 13 March 2003, in which the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council consider the report of the Working Group to the General Assembly under the appropriate agenda item at its substantive session of 2003,

Recalling also General Assembly decision 57/580 of 20 December 2002 and resolution 57/311 of 18 June 2003 on the financial situation of the Institute,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;[186]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the note of the President of the Working Group on the Future Operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;[187]

3. *Takes note* of the note of the Secretary-General on the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;[188]

4. *Decides* to amend article III of the statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women[189] in order to replace the Board of Trustees with an Executive Board: article III, paragraphs 1, 2, 2 (a), 2 (b), 3 (c) and 4 to be replaced and 3 (e) added, as follows:

> "1. The Institute and its work shall be governed by an Executive Board composed of ten Member States (hereinafter referred to as 'the Board');
>
> "2. The Board shall be composed as follows:
>
> "2. (a) Two governmental representatives from each of the five regional groups of the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council shall elect the members of the Board and they shall serve in their national capacities for a term of three years. They shall be eligible for reappointment by the Economic and Social Council for one further term. If a casual vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, the Economic and Social Council shall appoint a new member to serve for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the former member concerned;

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[185] A/AC.266/1.

[186] E/2003/59.

[187] E/2003/93, annex.

[188] E/2003/L.3/Add.6.

[189] The revised statute of the Institute is contained in the annex to the present resolution.

"2. (b) The Director of the Institute, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a representative of the host country and a representative of each of the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council shall serve as ex officio members of the Board;

"3. (c) Make recommendations for the operations of the Institute;

"3. (e) Review the list of candidates for Director of the Institute proposed by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and identify several candidates from the list for the final appointment to be made by the Secretary-General;

"4. The Board shall meet at least once a year, at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York, in accordance with article VII of the Statute. It shall elect its own officers, including its President, in accordance with the adopted rules of procedure. It shall take its decisions in the manner provided in its rules of procedure."

5. *Decides* to amend article IV of the statute of the Institute, with regard to the Director and the staff, paragraphs 1, 2, 2 (e) and 5 of which are to be replaced, as follows:

"1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the Director, taking into account the list of candidates proposed by the Board;

"2. The Director shall have overall responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the Institute in accordance with general directives by the Board and within the terms of the authority delegated to the Director by the Secretary-General. The Director shall, including through the delegation of responsibilities, where appropriate, inter alia:

"2. (e) Appoint and direct the staff of the Institute, including a Deputy Director, on behalf of the Secretary-General;

"5. The terms and conditions of service of the Director, the Deputy Director and the staff shall be those provided in the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, subject to such arrangements for special rules or terms of appointment as may be approved by the Secretary-General after consultations with the Executive Board. The salaries, allowances and other expenses of the Director and the staff shall be borne by the Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women."

6. *Requests* the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, to consider the final report of the Working Group;

7. *Requests* the Director of the Institute, in consultation with the Board, to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2004;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the present resolution.

48th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

Annex

Statute of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Article I
Status and purposes

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women was established by the Economic and Social Council (Council resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976) in conformity with an earlier decision of the General Assembly (resolution 3520 (XXX) of 1 December 1975), which was based on a recommendation made by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975. The Institute is an autonomous institution within the framework of the United Nations established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to serve as a vehicle on the international level for the purpose of undertaking research and establishing training programmes to contribute to the integration and mobilization of women in development, to raise awareness of women's issues worldwide and better to assist women to meet new challenges and directions. The Institute, as part of the United Nations, enjoys the status, privileges and immunities provided in Articles 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international agreements and United Nations resolutions relating to the status, privileges and immunities of the Organization.

Article II
Objectives and functions

1. The objectives of the Institute are to stimulate and assist, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and their integration in the developmental process both as participants and as beneficiaries. The Institute is to assist the efforts of intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations in this regard. Accordingly, the principal functions of the Institute shall be:

(a) To conduct research and studies which would enhance the effective integration and mobilization of women in development; the research and studies programmes of the Institute, including, in particular, action-oriented ones, shall give particular attention to the problems facing women in developing countries and to the integration of women in the formulation, design and implementation of development activities at all levels;

(b) To establish training programmes, including a fellowship programme and advisory services, through which the Institute shall endeavour to raise awareness on issues concerning women and development and shall strive to achieve equal participation of women in all aspects of economic and social development and to increase the opportunities for women to acquire new skills in order to meet the challenges of rapid change in today's society;

(c) To establish and maintain a system of information, documentation and communication so as to enable the Institute to respond to the need for disseminating information worldwide on women's issues.

2. In view of its catalytic role, the Institute shall make every effort to develop and utilize networking, as appropriate, in carrying out its functions. This should be done at the international, regional and national levels.

3. In the pursuit of its objectives the Institute shall carry out its activities in close collaboration and coordination with institutes and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system.

Article III
Executive Board

1. The Institute and its work shall be governed by an Executive Board composed of ten Member States (hereinafter referred to as "the Board").

2. The Board shall be composed as follows:

(a) Two governmental representatives from each of the five regional groups of the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council shall elect the members of the Board and they shall serve in their national capacities for a term of three years. They shall be eligible for reappointment by the Economic and Social Council for one further term. If a casual vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, the Economic and Social Council shall appoint a new member to serve for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the former member concerned;

(b) The Director of the Institute, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a representative of the host country and a representative of each of the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council shall serve as ex officio members of the Board.

3. The Board shall:

(a) Formulate principles, policies and guidelines for the activities of the Institute;

(b) Consider and approve the work programmes and the budget proposals of the Institute on the basis of recommendations submitted to it by the Director of the Institute;

(c) Make recommendations for the operations of the Institute;

(d) Report periodically to the Economic and Social Council and where appropriate to the General Assembly;

(e) Review the list of candidates for Director of the Institute proposed by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and identify several candidates from the list for the final appointment to be made by the Secretary-General.

4. The Board shall meet at least once a year at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York, in accordance with article VII of the statute. It shall elect its own officers, including its President, in accordance with the adopted rules of procedure. It shall take its decisions in the manner provided in its rules of procedure.

5. The Board shall consider methods for enhancing the financial resources of the Institute with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of its future operations, their continuity and the Institute's autonomous character within the framework of the United Nations.

6. Members of the Board in furtherance of the principles and policies of the Institute may be invited to help in achieving the goals of the Institute by attending meetings on behalf of the Institute, raising funds for the Institute's operations and helping to establish national support teams, if possible, in their respective countries for the attainment of the objectives of the Institute.

7. Organizations of the United Nations system and other institutions may be represented as appropriate at meetings of the Board in respect of activities of interest to them under the conditions outlined in the rules of procedure of the Board.

Article IV
The Director and the staff

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the Director, taking into account the list of candidates proposed by the Board.

2. The Director shall have overall responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the Institute in accordance with general directives by the Board and within the terms of the authority delegated to the Director by the Secretary-General. The Director shall, including through the delegation of responsibilities, where appropriate, inter alia:

(a) Submit the work programmes and the budget estimates of the Institute to the Board for its consideration and adoption;

(b) Oversee the execution of the work programmes and make the expenditures envisaged in the budget of the Institute as adopted by the Board;

(c) Submit to the Board annual and ad hoc reports on the activities of the Institute and the execution of its work programmes;

(d) Submit to the Economic and Social Council or to the General Assembly, as appropriate, reports approved by the Board;

(e) Appoint and direct the staff of the Institute, including a Deputy Director, on behalf of the Secretary-General;

(f) Coordinate the work of the Institute with that of other organs and bodies of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and international, regional and national institutions in similar fields;

(g) Negotiate arrangements with Governments and intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations, academic and philanthropic institutions with a view to offering and receiving services related to the activities of the Institute;

(h) Actively seek appropriate funding for the implementation of the work programme of the Institute;

(i) Accept, subject to the provisions of article VI, paragraph 2, below, voluntary contributions to the Institute;

(j) Make the necessary arrangements for securing established and continuous contact with and support from United Nations Headquarters;

(k) Undertake other assignments or activities as may be determined by the Board or requested by the Secretary-General, provided that any such requests are consistent with the programme budget approved by the Board.

3. The staff of the Institute shall be appointed by the Director on behalf of the Secretary-General and in accordance with modalities established by the Secretary-General, within the staffing table approved by the Board. Such appointment shall be limited to service with the Institute. The staff shall be responsible to the Director in the exercise of their functions.

4. The staff of the Institute shall be recruited on as wide a geographical basis as possible, full consideration being given to the particular requirements of and qualifications for each post needed by the Institute.

5. The terms and conditions of service of the Director, the Deputy Director and the staff shall be those provided in the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, subject to such arrangements for special rules or terms of appointment as may be approved by the Secretary-General after consultations with the Executive Board. The salaries, allowances and other expenses of the Director and the staff shall be borne by the Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

6. The Director and the staff of the Institute shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any authority external to the United Nations. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization.

7. The Director and the staff of the Institute are officials of the United Nations and are therefore covered by Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and by other international agreements and United Nations resolutions defining the status of officials of the Organization.

Article V
Fellows, consultants, correspondents and focal points

1. The Board may designate as honorary fellows individuals who could contribute substantively to the Institute's objectives.

2. The Director may designate a limited number of especially qualified persons to serve as senior fellows of the Institute, for a period not longer than one year, in accordance with criteria established by the Board and procedures formulated by the Secretary-General. Such persons, who may be invited to participate as lecturers or research scholars, shall be selected on the basis of outstanding contributions they have made in fields germane to the work of the Institute.

3. The Director may also designate junior fellows as part of the Institute's ongoing fellowship programmes. All fellowships will be granted within the financial provisions of the Institute's programme budget.

4. The Director may also arrange for the services of consultants for the purpose of contributing to the analysis and planning of the activities of the Institute or for special assignments in connection with the Institute's programmes. Such consultants shall be engaged in accordance with policies established by the Secretary-General.

5. Correspondents and focal points in countries or regions may be used by the Institute to assist in maintaining contact with national or regional institutions and in carrying out or advising on studies and research.

6. Honorary, senior or junior fellows, consultants and correspondents shall not be considered to be members of the staff of the Institute.

Article VI
Finance

1. The activities of the Institute shall be funded by voluntary contributions from States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations, including the United Nations Foundation, private sources and other sources in accordance with article VII of the statute.

2. Contributions to the Institute may be accepted provided that they are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Institute. Voluntary contributions that are unrestricted or that are designated for the implementation of an activity approved by the Board may be accepted by the Director after obtaining the concurrence of the Controller of the United Nations. Other voluntary contributions may be accepted only with the approval of the Board, which shall take into account the comments of the Secretary-General. Contributions, which may directly or indirectly involve an immediate or ultimate financial liability for the United Nations may be accepted only with the approval of the General Assembly.

3. The funds of the Institute derived from voluntary contributions shall be kept in the Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women established by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

4. The funds in the Trust Fund of the Institute shall be held and administered solely for the purposes of the Institute. The Controller of the United Nations shall perform all necessary financial and accounting functions for the Institute, including the custody of its funds, and shall prepare and certify the annual accounts of the Institute.

5. The Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the financial policies and procedures established by the Secretary-General shall apply to the financial operations of the Institute. Funds of the Institute shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

6. The Institute may, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, enter into contracts with organizations, institutions or firms for the purpose of carrying out its operations. The Institute may acquire or dispose of real and movable property in accordance with the same Regulations and Rules.

Article VII
Administrative and other support

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the Institute with appropriate administrative and other support, including financial and personnel services, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and on conditions determined after consultations between the Secretary-

General and the Director of the Institute, it being understood that no extra costs to the regular budget of the United Nations are incurred.

Article VIII
Cooperation with other organizations and institutions

1. The Institute shall develop arrangements for active and close cooperation with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations as well as with other organs, programmes and institutions within the United Nations system.

2. The Institute shall endeavour to develop arrangements for cooperation with other organizations or institutions involved in training and research activities which are relevant to the work of the Institute and which may be of assistance to the Institute in the performance of its functions.

Article IX
Location

The headquarters of the Institute shall be located in the Dominican Republic at Santo Domingo. The Institute may with the approval of the Board and after consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations establish other offices elsewhere.

Article X
Amendments

1. Amendments to this statute may be made by the Economic and Social Council.

2. The Board may review the provisions of this statute and propose to the Economic and Social Council such amendments, as it may consider necessary.

3. The Secretary-General may submit to the Board or, if necessary, to the Economic and Social Council, after consultation with the President of the Board, proposals for the revision of the present statute.

2003/58
Enhancement of the functioning of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in regard to the operation of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should continue to ensure effective coordination between its various branches in order to avoid any overlapping among all the mechanisms mandated and/or reporting to the Commission on Human Rights, as referred to in the report of the intersessional open-ended working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission,[190]

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[190] E/CN.4/2000/112.

Taking note of decision 47/102 of the Commission on the Status of Women,[191] in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for its consideration,

1. *Decides* to postpone any decision on the transmission of communications and their contents between the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council until the Commission on the Status of Women concludes its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and, in the meantime, to continue with present practice, as set out, notably in its resolution 1983/27 of 26 May 1983;

2. *Confirms* that communications and urgent appeals are to be forwarded to the concerned States under the authorization of the special mechanism mandate holders;

3. *Decides* that the present decision overrides Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/113 of 25 April 2003.[192]

48th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/59

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/269 of 20 December 2002,

Also recalling its resolution 2002/31 of 25 July 2002,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[193] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Stressing the importance of the revival of the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, and the principle of land for peace as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the

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[191] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 7* (E/2003/27), chap. I, sect. C.

[192] See E/2003/23 (Part I), chap. II, sect. B.

[193] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation impedes efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan,

Gravely concerned about the deterioration of the economic and living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan and the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of their natural resources,

Expressing grave concern over the continuation of the recent tragic and violent events since September 2000 that have led to many deaths and injuries,

Aware of the important work being done by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people,

Welcoming the acceptance of the Quartet road map for peace, presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the European Union, as well as the Summit at Aqaba, Jordan, and stressing the importance of prompt and full implementation in good faith by the two sides of the road map and further steps to reduce the level of violence,

1. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the Territory, including the removal of restrictions on going into and from East Jerusalem, and the freedom of movement to and from the outside world;

2. *Also stresses* the vital importance of the construction and operation of the seaport in Gaza and safe passage to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people;

3. *Demands* the complete cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction;

4. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end its occupation of Palestinian cities and other populated centres, to end all kinds of closures and to cease destruction of homes and economic facilities and agricultural fields;

5. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of these resources;

6. *Also reaffirms* that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and an obstacle to economic and social development;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

8. *Urges* Member States to encourage private foreign investment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in infrastructure, job-creation projects and social development in order to alleviate the hardship of the Palestinian people and improve living conditions;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include, in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator, an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

10. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its substantive session of 2004.

48th plenary meeting
24 July 2003

2003/60
Public administration and development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2002/40 of 19 December 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its second session;[194]

2. *Reiterates* that efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration, at both the national and international levels, has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[195] and in that context stresses the need to strengthen national public sector administrative and managerial capacity-building, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. *Reiterates also* that strengthening public administration and the State are at the forefront of the development agenda to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that revitalizing public administration is considered to be one of the essential

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[194] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 44* (E/2003/44).

[195] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

components of economic and social development, and in this context decides to explore the possibility of considering this theme at a future high-level segment;

4. *Decides* that the Committee shall meet annually, instead of biennially, for one week, given the need to adapt to the ever-changing environment and owing to the fact that rapidly emerging issues need to be addressed in a timely manner, with a focus on the need to modernize in all countries public sector human resource systems, strengthen systems of accountability and transparency and explore the potential of e-government to develop innovative public administrative tools;

5. *Also decides* that the Committee, within the framework decided upon in General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, should contribute to the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

6. *Approves* the following agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 29 March to 2 April 2004:

1. Revitalizing public administration.
2. Public sector institutional capacity for African renewal.
3. Analysis of existing basic data on the public sector.
4. Review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance.

7. *Urges* the Committee to continue to work in accordance with its mandate.

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2003

2003/61
Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[196] Agenda 21[197] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[198]

Also recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[199] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[200]

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[196] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[197] Ibid., annex II.

[198] General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

[199] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[200] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

Reaffirming in that regard the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[201] and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences held and international agreements made since 1992,

Recalling that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation will build further on the achievements made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that the Plan expedites the realization of the remaining goals; to that end, committing ourselves to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, efforts that will also promote the integration of the three components of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars; and recalling that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

Reaffirming that the Commission for Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission responsible for sustainable development within the United Nations system,

Reaffirming further the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development as stipulated in Agenda 21, General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eleventh session,[202]

Future organization of work of the Commission

1. *Decides* that the organization of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development should contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21,[197] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[198] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[200] at all levels;

2. *Also decides* that in order to fulfil its mandate the work of the Commission will be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, which will include a review session and a policy session. The cycles will function as follows:

(a) The Commission's review sessions, to be held in April/May for a period of two to three weeks in the first year of the cycle, will undertake an evaluation of progress in implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further

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[201] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[202] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29).

Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while focusing on identifying constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation with regard to the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle;

(b) The review sessions will include a high-level segment, an exchange of regional experiences, dialogues with experts, including scientific experts, and sharing of best practices and lessons learned, with a view to facilitating implementation, as well as capacity-building activities, such as learning centres and partnership fairs;

(c) The review sessions will undertake the above-mentioned evaluation on the basis of:

(i) The Secretary-General's state of implementation reports, which should reflect overall progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, based on information provided in particular in countries' reports and in reports by United Nations organizations and bodies as described in paragraph 2 (a) (ii) below, and on information from regions and subregions, as appropriate, as well as major groups. In addition, the Secretary-General's state of implementation reports should contain a detailed review of progress of implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle at all levels, and should also reflect new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21;

(ii) The contributions of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the Global Environment Facility and international financial and trade institutions;

(iii) The outcomes of regional and subregional meetings and activities, as appropriate;

(iv) The contributions of major groups, including scientific experts, as well as educators, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on their results-oriented activities concerning the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(d) The review session evaluation should enable an improved understanding of priority concerns in the implementation of the selected thematic cluster of issues and facilitate an effective policy discussion in the course of the policy year with a view to strengthening implementation in those areas;

(e) The outcome of the review session will be a report, including a chairperson's summary, identifying constraints and obstacles and possible approaches and best practices for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(f) In the policy year, the Commission will convene an intergovernmental preparatory meeting for one week in New York in February/March to discuss policy options and possible actions to address the constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the review year;

(g) The discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting will be based on the outcome of the review session, reports by the Secretary-General as well as other relevant inputs. Based on those discussions, the Chair will prepare a draft negotiating document for consideration at the policy session;

(h) The Commission's policy sessions, to be held in April/May of the second year of the cycle, will take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues, taking account of the discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting, the Secretary-General's reports and other relevant inputs;

(i) The review sessions and the policy sessions should mobilize further action by all implementation actors to overcome obstacles and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should address new challenges and opportunities and share lessons learned and best practices;

(j) Specific organizational modalities for Commission meetings will be recommended by the Bureau of the Commission through open-ended and transparent consultations conducted in a timely manner, following the established United Nations rules of procedure. Activities during Commission meetings should provide for balanced involvement of participants from all regions, as well as for gender balance;

3. *Decides*, in order to allow effective consideration of regional and subregional inputs throughout the implementation cycle and to ensure maximum flexibility:

(a) To invite the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to consider organizing regional implementation meetings in order to contribute to the work of the Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations and bodies, as appropriate, as well as the regional offices of funds, programmes and international finance and trade institutions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. Such meetings should preferably take place before the review session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and should:

(i) Contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(ii) Focus on the thematic cluster of issues to be addressed in the ongoing implementation cycle;

(iii) Provide input to the Secretary-General's reports and the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Those inputs may include identification of obstacles and constraints, new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and sharing of lessons learned and best practices;

(iv) Provide for contributions from major groups, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) To invite the General Assembly to consider using the resources previously devoted to the former ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission on Sustainable Development to support the participation of representatives of member States of the Commission in one of their respective regional meetings in each implementation cycle;

(c) To invite the regional commissions to provide other inputs to the Commission's review and policy sessions and the intergovernmental preparatory meeting;

(d) To invite other regional and subregional bodies and institutions within and outside the United Nations system to contribute to the preparations for the Commission's review and policy sessions and the intergovernmental preparatory meeting;

4. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that resources released by the termination of the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, whose work has been transferred to the Commission on Sustainable Development, could be used to support the work of the Commission;

5. *Invites* Governments, as well as organizations at all levels and major groups, to undertake results-oriented initiatives and activities that support the Commission's programme of work and promote and facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The results of such initiatives and activities should be an input to the Commission, as appropriate;

6. *Decides* that the results of the Commission's work could also include the sharing of best practices and lessons learned, capacity-building activities, exchange of experiences concerning the implementation of sustainable development strategies, as appropriate, and partnerships that support the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

7. *Also decides* that Commission sessions should include high-level segments, involving ministers or their representatives with responsibilities relevant to the thematic cluster of issues under discussion. The segments should be organized so that ministerial leadership, oversight and guidance in decision-making concerning the outcomes of the sessions would be enhanced. High-level segments should include focused dialogue, with the active participation of agencies, funds, programmes and other organizations of the United Nations system, international finance and trade institutions, and representatives of major groups at the appropriate level, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

8. *Further decides* to organize the periodic consideration of sustainable development themes in regard to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the means of implementation, and invites the Commission to submit recommendations to the Council with regard to such themes, which may include recommendations to assist the Economic and Social Council with its work in the pursuance of paragraph 144 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including its role in promoting system-wide coordination;

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period after 2003

9. *Decides* to adopt the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period after 2003 as outlined in the annex to the present resolution;

10. *Also decides* that the implementation of that programme of work will be guided by the following considerations:

(a) The review and evaluation of the implementation of actions, commitments and targets will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the decisions of the Commission. The thematic clusters should be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Recognizing that all the issues identified in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are important, the implementation process should cover all those issues equally, and the selection of some issues during a given cycle does not therefore diminish the importance of the commitments undertaken with respect to the issues to be considered during future cycles;

(b) Means of implementation, as identified in Agenda 21 and chapter X of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, should be addressed in every cycle and for every relevant issue, action and commitment;

(c) Other cross-cutting issues, as referred to in the annex to the present resolution, should also be addressed in every cycle;

(d) African and other regional initiatives, as well as initiatives on small island developing States and least developed countries, will be considered in every cycle with respect to all relevant issues, actions and targets;

(e) The Commission should focus on those issues where it can add value to intergovernmental deliberations on cross-sectoral and sectoral issues, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/191, in particular its paragraphs 3 (h), 21 and 23, as well as 139 (f) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(f) The Commission should take into account the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcomes of Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic and Social Fields;

(g) The Commission may decide to incorporate new challenges and opportunities related to implementation into its multi-year programme of work;

* * *

11. *Emphasizes* that in order to enable the Commission to perform the relevant requirements provided for in chapter 11 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in particular its paragraphs 145, 147 and 148, an effective system of reporting is essential for reviewing, evaluating and monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, sharing of lessons learned and best practices, as well as identifying actions taken, opportunities for and obstacles and constraints to implementation;

12. *Encourages* countries to present, on a voluntary basis, national reports, in particular to the Commission's review sessions, focusing on concrete progress in implementation, including achievements, constraints, challenges and opportunities;

13. *Also encourages*, with the purpose of implementing paragraphs 130 and 131 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and paragraph 3 of Commission decision 9/4, further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level, including integration of gender aspects, on a voluntary basis, in line with national conditions and priorities, and requests the Secretary-General to consider progress made in that regard, including further work on the above-mentioned indicators, in reporting to the Commission, as appropriate;

14. *Underscores* that reporting to the Commission should be guided by the following considerations:

(a) Reporting should reflect the overall progress made on the three dimensions of sustainable development, focusing on the thematic cluster of issues for the cycle, and should include inputs from all levels, as appropriate, including the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and drawing on those sources listed in paragraph 2 (c) (ii-iv) above;

(b) The existing reporting systems should be used to the fullest extent possible and will be expected to provide the bulk of information required;

(c) Reporting should focus on concrete progress in implementation, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development and their integration, and should include information-sharing, lessons learned, progress made and best practices, identifying actions taken, constraints, challenges and opportunities;

(d) The effective use of indicators, as described in paragraph 13 above;

(e) Country reporting should provide information on the status of national strategies for sustainable development;

15. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission, working in close cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system, to:

(a) Take measures to streamline reporting in order to avoid duplication and unnecessary burden on States, including in accordance with the Secretary-General's report on United Nations reform;

(b) Provide focused information that highlights relevant trends, constraints, challenges and emerging issues;

(c) Provide technical assistance to countries, upon their request, in national reporting through regular and extrabudgetary sources;

16. *Invites* the secretariat of the Commission to improve national reporting guidelines and questionnaires with the intention of making reporting more efficient and less burdensome on countries and more focused on implementation, bearing in mind the provisions of the present resolution, in consultation with Governments, United Nations organizations and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, and to report to the Commission for its consideration;

* * *

17. *Invites*, further to paragraph 140 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the Global Environment Facility, and international and regional financial and trade institutions, within their mandates, to participate actively in the work of the Commission in order to inform it of their activities designed to further the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. To that end, it is essential to undertake further measures to:

(a) Promote stronger linkages between global, regional and country-level implementation measures;

(b) Strengthen coherence and collaboration within and between organizations;

(c) Identify areas where further implementation measures may be required in order to improve progress;

(d) Mobilize and increase the effective use of resources from all sources for implementation;

(e) Enhance collaboration and coordination in all areas, including information exchange and knowledge-sharing on all aspects of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the ongoing process of United Nations reform and utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including through informal collaborative efforts, to further promote system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination to enhance the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to report on its activities to the Economic and Social Council and the Commission;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/253, to include in his report proposals outlining an integrated and comprehensive response of the United Nations system to sustainable development, taking into account the work of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcomes of Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic and Social Fields;

* * *

20. *Decides* that contributions to the Commission from major groups, including the scientific community and educators, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while following the established rules of procedure and practices of the Commission, should be further enhanced, taking into account chapter XI of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, through such measures as:

(a) Strengthening major group involvement in the activities of the Commission, including through the participation of representatives from major groups at the appropriate level in an interactive dialogue during high-level segments, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Making multi-stakeholder dialogues more action and implementation-oriented;

(c) Enhancing the participation and effective involvement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as promoting transparency and broad public participation;

(d) Striving for a better balance and better representation of major groups from all regions at the Commission;

(e) Active involvement in partnership-related and capacity-building activities at all levels, including the partnerships fairs and learning centres organized as part of the meetings of the Commission;

* * *

21. *Recalls* that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation designated the Commission to serve as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development, and reiterates that partnerships, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. They are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, those commitments;

22. Stresses that partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with the following criteria and guidelines, taking note in that regard of the preliminary work undertaken on partnerships during the preparatory process for the Summit, including the Bali guiding principles, and General Assembly resolution 56/76 of 11 December 2001:

(a) Partnerships are voluntary initiatives undertaken by Governments and relevant stakeholders, such as major groups and institutional stakeholders;

(b) Partnerships should contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should not divert resources from the commitments contained in those agreements;

(c) Partnerships are not intended to substitute commitments made by Governments but to supplement the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(d) Partnerships should add concrete value to the implementation process and should be new, that is, they should not merely reflect existing arrangements;

(e) Partnerships should bear in mind the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their design and implementation;

(f) Partnerships should be based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, should include the mobilization of new resources and, where relevant, should result in the transfer of technology to, and capacity-building in, developing countries;

(g) It is desirable that partnerships have a sectoral and geographical balance;

(h) Partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner. In that regard, they should exchange relevant information with Governments and other relevant stakeholders;

(i) Partnerships should be publicly announced with the intention of sharing the specific contribution that they make to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(j) Partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place;

(k) The leading partner of a partnership initiative should inform the national focal point for sustainable development of the involved country/countries about the initiation and progress of the partnership, and all partners should bear in mind the guidance provided by Governments;

(l) The involvement of international institutions and United Nations funds, programmes and agencies in partnerships should conform to intergovernmentally agreed mandates and should not lead to the diversion to partnerships of resources otherwise allocated for their mandated programmes;

23. *Decides* that providing information and reporting by partnerships registered with the Commission should be transparent, participatory and credible, taking into account the following elements:

(a) The registration of partnerships should be voluntary and should be based on written reporting to the Commission, taking into account the provisions specified above. Reporting by partnerships should focus on their contribution to the implementation of the goals, objectives and targets of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Partnerships should submit a regular report, preferably at least on a biennial basis;

(c) The Secretariat is requested to make information available on partnerships, including their reports, through a database accessible to all interested parties, including through the Commission web site and other means;

(d) The Secretariat is requested to produce a summary report containing synthesized information on partnerships for consideration by the Commission, in accordance with its programme and organization of work, noting the particular relevance of such reports in review years;

(e) The Commission, during review years, should discuss the contribution of partnerships towards supporting the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with a view to sharing lessons learned and best practices, identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints, and providing further guidance, including on reporting, during policy years, as necessary;

24. *Calls* for activities aimed at strengthening partnerships in the context of the Summit process and its follow-up and facilitating new ones, including through such initiatives as partnerships fairs and learning centres, mindful of the importance of sharing information on existing activities, particularly across the United Nations system.

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2003

Annex

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Cycle	*Thematic cluster*	*Cross-cutting issues*
2004/2005	• Water • Sanitation • Human settlements	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2006/2007	• Energy for sustainable development • Industrial development • Air pollution/atmosphere • Climate change	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2008/2009	• Agriculture • Rural development • Land • Drought • Desertification • Africa	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education

Cycle	*Thematic cluster*	*Cross-cutting issues*
2010/2011[a]	• Transport • Chemicals • Waste management • Mining • Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2012/2013[a]	• Forests • Biodiversity • Biotechnology • Tourism • Mountains	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2014/2015[a]		Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2016/2017	Overall appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	

[a] This thematic cluster will remain as part of the multi-year programme of work as scheduled, unless otherwise agreed by the Commission (applies to clusters for 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2014/2015).

2003/62
Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and General Assembly resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 56/206 of 26 December 2001 and 57/275 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,[203] the Habitat Agenda[204] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[205] which focused on adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements,

Recalling further the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[206] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020, and the relevant decisions contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[207] to halve, by the year 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, as outlined in the Millennium Declaration, and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation,

Recalling that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and stressing that the international community should fully implement its commitments to support Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts, through the provision of requisite resources, capacity-building, transfer of technology and the creation of an international enabling environment,

Welcoming the progress made in the revitalization of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Commending those countries which have contributed to the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General,[208]

Expressing concern at the relatively low level of non-earmarked contributions, leading to the continuing and growing imbalance between earmarked and non-earmarked contributions to the Foundation,

Recognizing the need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the Foundation in the new millennium to ensure timely, effective and concrete results in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, particularly in developing countries,

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[203] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[204] Ibid., annex I.

[205] See General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

[206] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[207] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[208] E/2003/76.

Taking note of efforts by UN-Habitat to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[208]

1. *Underlines* the commitments made by Governments to implement the Habitat Agenda,[204] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[205] and the development goal contained in the Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the live of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;[206]

2. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so to increase their financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and invites international financial institutions, as appropriate, to assist developing countries in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, while giving due consideration to marginalized groups;

3. *Welcomes* decision 19/18 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat endorsing the establishment of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian people and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund of five million dollars for an initial period of two years, and urges the international donor community and all financial institutions to support UN-Habitat in the immediate mobilization of financial resources for the establishment and operation of the programme and the fund;

4. *Invites* Governments to facilitate furthering of partnerships at the national and local levels, as appropriate, with civil society organizations, local authorities, women's groups, the business sector and other Habitat Agenda partners in implementing the Habitat Agenda and the relevant targets of the Millennium Declaration;

5. *Encourages* Governments to support and enable the participation of youth in the implementation of Habitat Agenda through social, cultural and economic activities at the city level and in other national and local activities;

6. *Encourages also* UN-Habitat to continue to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, including through promoting partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations and private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to strengthen the implementation of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System to allow better monitoring and mutual enforcement of actions taken in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

8. *Calls for* increased cooperation between UN-Habitat and other members of the United Nations Development Group through existing coordination

mechanisms such as the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes;

9. *Encourages* Governments to include issues pertaining to shelter and sustainable human settlements and urban poverty in their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its substantive session of 2004 on the implementation of the present resolution.

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2003

2003/63
Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2000/35, particularly its paragraph 4 establishing the United Nations Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body of the Council composed of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies with full and equal participation,

Also recalling paragraph 6 of the same resolution inviting voluntary extrabudgetary contributions in support of the participation of representatives of developing countries that are not members of the Commission on Sustainable Development in sessions of the Forum and its subsidiary bodies,

Further recalling paragraph 16 of the same resolution calling upon interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to a trust fund in order to facilitate the continuing work of the Forum and the secretariat,

Taking note of the oral report by the secretariat at its third session on the status of the secretariat, and the views expressed by many countries on the need for enhanced participation of Member States that are developing countries, least developed countries or countries with economies in transition in the sessions of the Forum,

Noting that the Trust Fund is an important resource for carrying out activities to support the work of the Forum and to ensure the increased participation of representatives of developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as experts from those countries, in the sessions of the Forum, and other meetings aimed at supporting the work of the Forum, and ad hoc expert groups,

Acknowledging with appreciation the voluntary extrabudgetary contributions made by a number of donor Governments to the Trust Fund to support the Forum and its secretariat and recognizing the need for additional resources,

1. *Invites* donor Governments, institutions and other organizations to provide contributions to the Trust Fund;

2. *Recommends* that the General Assembly decide that support to participants from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition may be provided from the Trust Fund for travel and daily subsistence from funds designated for that purpose.

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2003

2003/64

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, 2001/34 of 26 July 2001 and 2001/44 of 20 December 2001,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals[209] during the biennium 2001-2002,

A

Work of the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Committee for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods,

Bearing in mind the need to maintain safety standards at all times and to facilitate trade, as well as the importance of this to the various organizations responsible for modal regulations, while meeting the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport,

Noting the increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals with respect to matters relating to the transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations[210] on the transport of dangerous goods to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

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[209] E/2003/46.

[210] ST/SG/AC.10/29/Add.1 and 2.

(b) To publish the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*[211] and the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*[212] in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 2003;

(c) To make these publications available on the web site of the Economic Commission for Europe, which also provides secretariat services to the Committee, and to make them available also on CD-ROM;

3. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned to transmit to the secretariat of the Committee their views on the Committee's work, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

4. *Invites* all interested Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to consider taking into account the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the status of the effective implementation of the *Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* by Member States and international organizations on a worldwide level;

B

Work of the Committee regarding the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Bearing in mind that, pursuant to paragraph 19.27 of Agenda 21,[213] the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals has cooperated for a decade with the International Labour Organization, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to develop a globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labelling system for chemicals,

Bearing in mind also that the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals was created pursuant to resolution 1999/65 to make the Globally Harmonized System available worldwide, to keep it up-to-date and to promote and monitor its implementation,

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee could reach consensus on the Globally Harmonized System after consideration of a draft consolidated by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals on the basis of input from the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the International Labour Organization and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development,

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[211] ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.13.

[212] ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4.

[213] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

Aware that the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its 2002 session in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of Implementation,[214] encouraged countries to implement the Globally Harmonized System as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008,

Also aware that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and requested the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Plan relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination,

Further aware of and recognizing the significance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research/International Labour Organization/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System for building capacities at all levels to achieve the 2008 target,

1. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Committee and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To publish the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner and to circulate it to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned as soon as possible and no later than 2004;

(b) To consider disseminating the Globally Harmonized System as a CD-ROM;

(c) To make the Globally Harmonized System available on the web site of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe, which also provides secretariat services to the Committee;

3. *Invites* all Governments to take the necessary steps, through appropriate national procedures and/or legislation, to implement the Globally Harmonized System, as soon as possible and no later than 2008;

4. *Reiterates* the call for support to developing countries in strengthening their capacity of the sound management of chemicals by providing technical and financial assistance;

5. *Invites* the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, work safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System through such instruments;

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[214] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

6. *Invites* Governments, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to provide feedback to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the status of implementation of the Globally Harmonized System;

8. *Encourages* Governments, regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in particular industry, to support implementation of the Globally Harmonized System and capacity-building activities in developing countries and countries in transition by providing financial contributions and/or technical assistance;

C

Programme of work of the Committee

Taking note of the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2003-2004 as contained in paragraphs 29 to 31 of the report of the Secretary-General,[209]

Noting the relatively poor representation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee and the need to ensure their wider participation in its work,

1. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the participation of experts from developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee, calls, in this regard, for voluntary contributions to facilitate their participation, including through support for travel and daily subsistence allowance, and invites Member States and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute;

3. *Notes* the recommendations of the Committee regarding staff resources[215] and invites the General Assembly to consider this issue in the context of its review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2005 on the implementation of the present resolution.

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2003

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[215] As contained in E/2003/46, para. 33; see also A/54/443/Add.1, para. 7.

Decisions

2003/223

Adoption of the agenda of the substantive session of 2003

At its 13th plenary meeting, on 30 June 2003, the Economic and Social Council adopted the agenda of its substantive session of 2003[216] and approved the proposed programme of work of the session.[217]

At its 15th plenary meeting, on 1 July 2003, on the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Council approved the request made by non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Council at its substantive session of 2003.[218]

At its 24th plenary meeting, on 7 July 2003, the Council revised the programme of work.

2003/224

Delegation of formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund

At its 30th plenary meeting, on 11 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of decision 2003/13 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund adopted at its annual session of 2003[219] and recommended to the General Assembly that, as proposed in the report of the Administrator to the Council,[220] formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund be delegated by the Secretary-General to the Executive Director of the Fund.

2003/225

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with operational activities segment

At its 31st plenary meeting, on 11 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Extension of water-related technical cooperation projects to end-beneficiaries: bridging the gap between the normative and the operational in the United Nations system (case studies in two African countries)";[221]

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[216] E/2003/100.

[217] E/2003/L.5.

[218] E/2003/88.

[219] DP/2003/26.

[220] DP/FPA/2003/5.

[221] A/57/497.

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;[222]

(c) Annual reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council;[223]

(d) Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, 2002;[224]

(e) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first regular session of 2003;[225]

(f) Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on its first, second and third regular sessions and its annual session of 2002;[226]

(g) Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund to the Economic and Social Council;[227]

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 2001;[228]

(i) Decisions of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its annual session of 2003;[229]

(j) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund on its second regular session of 2002;[230]

(k) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session of 2003;[231]

(l) Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on strengthening consultations with the Member States on the Human Development Report, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/264;[232]

(m) Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.[233]

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[222] A/57/497/Add.1.

[223] E/2003/13.

[224] E/2003/14.

[225] E/2003/34 (Part I).

[226] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 16* (E/2003/36).

[227] E/2003/48.

[228] E/2003/57.

[229] E/2003/L.8.

[230] DP/2003/1.

[231] DP/2003/9.

[232] DP/2003/17.

[233] TCDC/13/4.

Decision 2003/226
Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

At its 35th plenary meeting, on 15 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;[234]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of the United Nations system response in East Timor: coordination and effectiveness".[235]

Decision 2003/227
Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the coordination segment

At its 36th plenary meeting, on 15 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits;[236]

(b) Comprehensive report of the Statistical Commission on the work related to chapter VI, section E, of its report on its thirty-third session and on basic indicator for the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels, including the report on indicators on means of implementation;[237]

(c) Note by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations transmitting a report by its Committee on World Food Security on progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action;[238]

(d) Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.[239]

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[234] A/58/89-E/2003/85.

[235] A/58/85-E/2003/80.

[236] E/2003/67.

[237] E/2003/83.

[238] E/2003/87.

[239] A/57/48.

2003/228
Venue of the sixtieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 18 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, having considered the recommendation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to accept the invitation of the Government of China to host the sixtieth session of the Commission,[240]

(a) Expressed its gratitude to the Government of China for its generous offer;

(b) Approved the decision to hold the sixtieth session of the Commission in Shanghai, China, in April 2004.

2003/229
Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-sixth session and provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 21 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-sixth session;

(b) Approved the provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters:

   (a) Intersessional meeting of the Bureau;

   (b) Agenda and organization of work.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

   Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

   Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meeting

3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

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[240] E/2003/15/Add.1, chap. I.A, draft decision I.

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. General debate on national experience in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population, 2003

6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session.

2003/230

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 21 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-first session;[241]

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
    (a) Priority theme: improving public sector effectiveness;
    (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
        (i) Tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

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[241] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 6* (E/2003/26).

(ii) Equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on improving public sector effectiveness

Report of the Secretary-General on the final preparations for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Report of the Secretary-General transmitting the views of Governments on the supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

4. Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission.

5. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-second session.

2003/231

Confirmation of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 21 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council confirmed the following four individuals as members on the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for a four-year term expiring on 30 June 2007: Yakin Ertürk (Turkey); Elizabeth Jelin (Argentina); Marina Pavlova-Silvanskaya (Russian Federation); and Salma Sobhan (Bangladesh/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

2003/232

Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided to postpone the consideration of the question of genetic privacy and non-discrimination to its substantive session of 2004 to allow for a thorough review of this matter and its implications on ethical, legal, medical, employment-related and other aspects of social life, on the basis, inter alia, of the report of the Secretary-General requested by the Council in its resolution 2001/39 of 26 July 2001.[242]

2003/233

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twelfth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its thirteenth session

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twelfth session;[243]

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[242] E/2003/91 and Add.1.

[243] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 10* (E/2003/30).

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirteenth session set out below, on the understanding that intersessional meetings will be held in Vienna, at no additional cost, to finalize the items to be included in the provisional agenda and the documentation requirements for the thirteenth session.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

1. Election of officers.

(Legislative authority: rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and Council resolution 2003/31)

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

Documentation

Provisional agenda, annotations and proposed organization of work

(Legislative authority: rules 5 and 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and Council resolution 1992/1 and decision 1997/232)

3. Thematic discussion on the rule of law and development: the contribution of operational activities in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Sub-themes to be identified by intersessional meetings

A workshop on the theme to be organized by the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the rule of law and development: the contribution of operational activities in crime prevention and criminal justice

(Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51 and decision 2002/238)

4. Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 57/170 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/22, 1999/23, 2003/24 and 2003/25)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network

(Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/22, 1994/21 and 1999/23)

5. International cooperation against transnational crime:

(a) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 57/168, 57/169 and 58/... [E/CN.15/2003/L.15])

(b) United Nations Convention against Corruption;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 40/243, 55/61, 56/186, 56/260 and 57/169)

(c) International cooperation in the prevention, combating and elimination of kidnapping and in providing assistance for the victims.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/16 and 2003/28)

6. Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and combating terrorism.[244]

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 58/... [E/CN.15/2003/L.9/Rev.1])

7. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/22 and 2003/30)

(a) Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime;

Documentation

Report of the meeting of experts on the development of a practical manual on the use and application of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime

(Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/26)

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[244] In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/... [E/CN.15/2003/L.9/Rev.1], a senior-level discussion on progress made with regard to the criminal justice aspects of terrorism and international cooperation and to the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism will be organized during the thirteenth session of the Commission. Details of the arrangements for the discussion will be prepared by the extended bureau of the Commission and submitted for consideration at intersessional meetings of the Commission.

(b) Prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/29)

8. Preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General, including progress made in the follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and the plans of action, as well as new developments that have taken place in the areas covered by the Vienna Declaration

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 56/119, 57/171, 57/170 and 58/... [E/CN.15/2003/L.8/Rev.1])

Discussion guide for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 56/119, 57/171, 57/170 and 58/... [E/CN.15/2003/L.6/Rev.1] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/23)

9. Strategic management and programme questions:

(a) Functioning of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(Legislative authority: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 1/1, 4/3, 5/3, 6/3 and 7/1 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31)

(b) Programme questions;

Documentation

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2006-2009, programme (...), Crime prevention and criminal justice

(c) United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

10. Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Commission.

    (Legislative authority: rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and Council decision 2002/238)

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirteenth session.

2003/234

Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided to endorse the appointment, by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session, of Pedro David and Takayuki Shiibashi to the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

2003/235

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-sixth session[245] and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission set out below, on the understanding that intersessional meetings would be held at Vienna, at no additional cost, to finalize the items to be included in the provisional agenda and the documentation requirements for the forty-seventh session.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda and annotations

3. Thematic debate (*theme and subthemes to be identified*).

   Documentation

   Note by the Secretariat (*as necessary*)

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[245] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 8* (E/2003/28).

Normative segment

4. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat (*as necessary*)

5. Drug demand reduction:

(a) Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;

(b) World situation with regard to drug abuse.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat

6. Illicit drug traffic and supply:

(a) World situation with regard to drug trafficking and action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission;

(b) Follow-up to the twentieth special session:

(i) Measures to promote judicial cooperation (extradition, mutual legal assistance, controlled delivery, trafficking by sea and law enforcement cooperation, including training);

(ii) Countering money-laundering;

(iii) Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Crops and on Alternative Development.

Documentation

Reports of the Secretariat

7. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

(b) International Narcotics Control Board;

(c) Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly:

(i) Measures to prevent the illicit manufacture, import, export, trafficking, distribution and diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(ii) Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors;

(d) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.

Documentation

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 on the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

Notes by the Secretariat (*as necessary*)

Operational segment

8. Policy directives to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

9. Strengthening the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director

10. Administrative and budgetary questions.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director

11. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

12. Other business.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat (*as necessary*)

13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session.

2003/236
Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002.[246]

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[246] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.1).

2003/237

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-seventh session[247] and approved the provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
    (a) The role of men and boys in gender equality;
    (b) Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session.

2003/238

Human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israel

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/8 of 16 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decision to request the Secretary-General:

(a) To bring Commission resolution 2003/8 to the attention of the Government of Israel and to call upon it to comply with its provisions;

(b) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and to the Commission at its sixtieth session on the results of his efforts in this regard.

2003/239

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/12 of 16 April 2003[249] and endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, as contained in

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[247] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 7* (E/2003/27).

[248] E/2003/23 (Part II), chap. I.B.

Commission resolution 1992/58 of 3 March 1992, for a further year and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and to report to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

2003/240

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/15 of 17 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a further year and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and to report to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

2003/241

Situation of human rights in Burundi

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/16 of 17 April 2003[249] and endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur by one year and its request to the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report on the human rights situation in Burundi to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and a report to the Commission at its sixtieth session, giving her work a gender-specific dimension.

2003/242

Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 2002/254 of 25 July 2002, in which the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to establish, at its fifty-ninth session, an open-ended working group of the Commission with a view to considering options regarding the elaboration of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and taking note of Commission resolution 2003/18 of 22 April 2003,[250] endorsed the Commission's request that the working group should meet for a period of 10 working days, prior to the sixtieth session of the Commission, with a view to considering options regarding the elaboration of an optional protocol to the Covenant, in the light, inter alia, of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the Commission on a draft optional protocol for the consideration of communications in relation to the Covenant,[249] comments and views submitted by States, intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations, and the reports of the independent expert to examine the question of a draft optional protocol to the Covenant.[250]

2003/243

Effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/21 of 22 April 2003[248] and approved the Commission's decision to renew the mandate of the independent expert on the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, for three years and to request him to submit an analytical report to the Commission on an annual basis on the implementation of Commission resolution 2003/21, paying particular attention to the effects of the burden of foreign debt and the policies adopted to face them on the capacity of the Governments of developing countries to adopt policies and programmes for the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to recommend measures and actions that could be taken to alleviate such effects, especially in the poorest and heavily indebted countries.

The Council also approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the independent expert with all necessary assistance, in particular the staff and resources required to carry out his functions.

2003/244

The right to food

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/25 of 22 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food for a further three years and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and to the Commission at its sixtieth session on the implementation of resolution 2003/25.

2003/245

Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/27 of 22 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decision to renew the mandate of the Special

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[249] E/CN.4/1997/105, annex.

[250] E/CN.4/2002/57 and E/CN.4/2003/53 and Corr.1.

Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, for a period of three years and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit a report to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

2003/246

World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/30 of 23 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decision:

(a) To request the Intergovernmental Working Group to make recommendations with a view to the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to prepare complementary international standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their aspects, to convene its upcoming sessions for an initial period of three years, while encouraging it to work effectively to fulfil its mandate, to convene its second session of 10 working days, focusing on areas decided upon in its recommendations, namely, poverty, education and complementary standards, and to report on progress in this regard at the sixtieth session of the Commission;

(b) That the working group of experts on people of African descent should convene its future sessions for an initial period of three years, while encouraging it to work effectively towards the fulfilment of its mandate, and also the Commission's decision to request the working group to convene its second session of 10 working days and to report to the Commission at its sixtieth session on progress towards the fulfilment of its mandate;

(c) The Council also endorsed the Commission's recommendations that the General Assembly, after considering the analytical report of the Secretary-General on the extent of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,[251] to be submitted pursuant to Assembly resolution 57/195, consider the closure of the Third Decade;

(d) The Council also endorsed the Commission's recommendation that the General Assembly, in the coming decade of activities to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, place emphasis on the concrete implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on the basis of a broad-based consensus on the importance of the anti-discrimination struggle worldwide;

(e) The Council further endorsed the Commission's request that the Secretary-General provide the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance with all the necessary human and financial assistance to carry out his mandate efficiently, effectively and expeditiously and to enable him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

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[251] A/58/80-E/2003/71.

2003/247
Question of arbitrary detention

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/31 of 23 April 2003[187] and endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention for three years, in accordance with Commission resolutions 1991/42 of 5 March 1991 and 1997/50 of 15 April 1997.

2003/248
Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/32 of 23 April 2003,[188] endorsed the Commission's request for an independent evaluation, in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, of the functioning of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, including, in particular, the lessons and best practices learned from the Fund's activities, with a view to further enhancing its effectiveness and its request that the independent evaluation should be initiated before the next session of the Commission, using extrabudgetary funding.

2003/249
Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/38 of 23 April 2003,[189] authorized the open-ended intersessional working group of the Commission with the mandate to elaborate a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance to meet for a period of 10 working days before the sixtieth session of the Commission in order to continue its work, in accordance with Commission resolutions 2001/46 of 23 April 2001 and 2002/41 of 23 April 2002, and endorsed the Commission's request that it report to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

2003/250
Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/43 of 23 April 2003[190] and endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers for a further period of three years and its request to the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the activities relating to the mandate to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

The Council also endorsed the Commission's request to the Secretary-General, within the limits of the United Nations regular budget, to provide the Special Rapporteur with any assistance needed for the discharge of his mandate.

2003/251

Elimination of violence against women

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/45 of 23 April 2003[247] and endorsed the Commission's decision to renew for a period of three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

The Council approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance, in particular the staff and resources required to perform all mandated functions, especially in carrying out and following up on missions undertaken either separately or jointly with other special rapporteurs and working groups, as well as adequate assistance for periodic consultations with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and all other treaty bodies.

2003/252

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/54 of 24 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's request that the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief should submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and report to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

2003/253

Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/57 of 24 April 2003[249] and authorized the Working Group established in accordance with Commission resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995 to meet for a period of 10 working days prior to the sixtieth session of the Commission, the costs of the meeting to be met from within existing resources.

2003/254

Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/58 of 24 April 2003[248] and authorized the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to meet for five working days prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

2003/255

Human rights defenders

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/64 of 24 April 2003[248] and approved the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders for a further three years, and also approved the Commission's request that the Special Representative continue to report on her activities to the General Assembly and to the Commission.

2003/256

Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/68 of 25 April 2003[248] and approved the Commission's decision to request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a report on the implementation of resolution 2003/68 to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

2003/257

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/77 of 25 April 2003[248] and approved the Commission's decision to request the Secretary-General to appoint an independent expert for a period of one year to develop, in strict collaboration with the Afghan Transitional Authority, including the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, as well as with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, a programme of advisory services to ensure the full respect and protection of human rights and the promotion of the rule of law and to seek and receive information about and report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan in an effort to prevent human rights violations.

The Council also approved the Commission's request that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and submit a report to the General Assembly and the Commission.

2003/258

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/78 of 25 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia for a further year as well as its request to the independent expert to report to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

The Council also endorsed the Commission's decision to request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the independent expert with all necessary assistance in carrying out his mandate and to provide adequate resources, from within existing overall United Nations resources, to fund the activities of the independent expert and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in providing advisory services and technical assistance.

2003/259

Situation of human rights in Sierra Leone

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/80 of 25 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and to the Commission at its sixtieth session on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone, including with reference to reports from the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

2003/260

Technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/82 of 25 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decision to appoint an independent expert for an initial period of three years to facilitate cooperation between the Government of Liberia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights by providing technical assistance and advisory services.

2003/261
The right to development

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/83 of 25 April 2003[248] and decided to endorse the decision of the Commission to renew the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development for one year and to convene its fifth session before the sixtieth session of the Commission for a period of 10 working days.

2003/262
Situation of human rights in Iraq

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/84 of 25 April 2003[248] and endorsed the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, as contained in Commission resolution 1991/74 of 6 March 1991 and in subsequent resolutions, for a further year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report on the situation of human rights in Iraq, focusing on newly available information about violations of human rights and international law by the Government of Iraq over many years, to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and to report to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

2003/263
Decision relating to Liberia under the procedure established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII)

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/105 of 2 April 2003[248] and endorsed the recommendation of the Commission that the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Liberia be made public so as to encourage assistance to the Government and the people of Liberia in restoring full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2003/264
The Social Forum

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/107 of 22 April 2003[248] and authorized the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to convene at Geneva an annual intersessional forum on economic, social and cultural rights, to be known as the "Social Forum", for two days on dates that would permit the possible participation of 10 members of the Subcommission, to be appointed by the regional groups of the Subcommission, and also authorized the provision of all the necessary facilities for the preparation and servicing of the event.

2003/265

Discrimination in the criminal justice system

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/108 of 23 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decision to approve the appointment of Ms. Leila Zerrougui as Special Rapporteur to conduct a detailed study of discrimination in the criminal justice system, with a view to determining the most effective means of ensuring equal treatment in the criminal justice system for all persons without discrimination, in particular vulnerable persons, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit a preliminary report to the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session, a progress report at its fifty-sixth session and a final report at its fifty-seventh session.

The Council approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with any assistance necessary to enable her to fulfil her mandate, including the assistance of a consultant having specialized knowledge of the subject.

2003/266

Housing and property restitution in the context of refugees and other displaced persons

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/109 of 24 April 2003,[248] endorsed the Commission's decision to appoint Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro as Special Rapporteur, with the task of preparing a comprehensive study on housing and property restitution in the context of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, based on his working paper[252] as well as on the comments made and the discussions that took place at the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, and also endorsed the request to the Special Rapporteur to submit a preliminary report to the Subcommission at its fifty-fifth session, a progress report at its fifty-sixth session and a final report at its fifty-seventh session.

2003/267

Indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/110 of 24 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decisions:

(a) To approve the appointment of Ms. Erica-Irene Daes as Special Rapporteur to undertake a study on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources, based on her working paper,[253] and to request her to submit a preliminary report to the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session and her final report at its fifty-sixth session;

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[252] E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/17.

[253] E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/23.

(b) To request the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance to enable her to carry out her study.

2003/268

The prevention of human rights violations caused by the availability and misuse of small arms and light weapons

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/112 of 25 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decisions:

(a) To approve the appointment of Ms. Barbara Frey as Special Rapporteur with the task of preparing a comprehensive study on the prevention of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons, based on her working paper[254] as well as the comments received and the discussion that took place at the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit a preliminary report to the Subcommission at its fifty-fifth session, a progress report at its fifty-sixth session and a final report at its fifty-seventh session;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the assistance necessary to enable her to accomplish her task.

2003/269

Organization of work of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/114 of 25 April 2003[248] and authorized eight fully serviced additional meetings, including summary records, in accordance with rules 29 and 31 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, for the Commission's sixtieth session.

The Council approved the Commission's decision to request the Chairperson of the sixtieth session of the Commission to make every effort to organize the work of the session within the time normally allotted so that the additional meetings authorized by the Council might be utilized only if they proved to be absolutely necessary.

2003/270

Dates of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/115 of 25 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's decision that the first meeting of the Commission would be held on the third Monday in January, with the sole purpose of electing its officers, and that the sixtieth session of the Commission would be held from 15 March to 23 April 2004.

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[254] E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/39.

2003/271
International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, took note of Commission on Human Rights decision 2003/117 of 25 April 2003[248] and endorsed the Commission's recommendation that it request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize, before the end of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, a seminar on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples to explore possible ways and means to follow up on the recommendations included in the final report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martínez.[255]

2003/272
Calendar of conferences and meetings for 2004 and 2005 in the economic, social and related fields

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council approved the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2004 and 2005 in the economic, social and related fields.[256]

2003/273
Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

At its 47th meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people.[257]

2003/274
Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with regional cooperation

At its 47th meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation;[258]

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[255] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/20.

[256] E/2003/L.7 and Corr.1.

[257] A/58/88-E/2003/84 and Corr.1.

[258] E/2003/15.

(b) Addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation: matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention;[259]

(c) Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 2002;[260]

(d) Summary of the economic and social situation in Africa, 2002;[261]

(e) Summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 2003;[262]

(f) Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2002;[263]

(g) Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 2002-2003.[264]

2003/275

Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following 57 non-governmental organizations:

Special consultative status

Academy for Future Science

All-Russian Social Fund — "Russian Children's Foundation"

Antiviolence Center

Association d'aide aux enfants cancéreux

Association for Democratic Initiatives

Association for Solidarity with Freedom-deprived Juveniles

Association of Support for HIV-Infected and HIV-Affected Children and Their Families

Buddha's Light International Association

Centre d'accompagnement des autochtones pygmées et minoritaires vulnérables

Focus on The Family

Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action

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[259] E/2003/15/Add.1.

[260] E/2003/16.

[261] E/2003/17.

[262] E/2003/18.

[263] E/2003/19.

[264] E/2003/20.

Fund of Aid for Youth

Global Action on Ageing

Green Earth Foundation

Heritage Foundation

Indigenous and Peasant Coordinator of Communal Agroforestry

Instituto Qualivida

International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

International Committee for the Indians of the Americas

International Corrections and Prisons Association for the Advancement of Professional Corrections

International Council on Human Rights Policy

International Institute for the Rights of the Child

International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

International Planned Parenthood Federation (European Region)

International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade

Japan Civil Liberties Union

Jubilee Campaign

Kids Can Free the Children

Lassalle-Institut

Little House of Nazareth

Mandat International

Millennium Institute

Mumbai Educational Trust

Non-governmental Ecological Vernadsky Foundation

Oasis Open City Foundation

Population Concern

Priests for Life

Recontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme

Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation

Southern Diaspora Research and Development Center

Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation

Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation

World Job and Food Bank

Roster

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Dzeno Association

European Cyclists' Federation

European Industrial Gases Association

Fondation haitienne pour l'habitat et l'intégration des sans-abris

Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa

Hague International Model United Nations

International Society for Human Rights

International Solid Waste Association

Plan International Norway

Professional Institute for Advanced Wound Recovery

Sustainable Cities Foundation

Unión de Selvicultores del Sur de Europa

Worldwatch Institute

(b) To reclassify the following two non-governmental organizations from the Roster to special consultative status:

International Association of Charities

Movement for a Better World

(c) To note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following 65 organizations (years of reporting indicated in parentheses):

AFS Inter-Cultural Programs (1998-2001)

American Association of Retired Persons (1995-1998)

Amnesty International (1996-1999)

Association européenne contre les violences faites aux femmes au travail (1998-2001)

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren Organisationen (1998-2001)

Canadian Environmental Network (1997-2000)

Catholic International Education Office (1998-2001)

Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic (1996-1999)

CIVICUS — World Alliance for Citizen Participation (1997-2000)

Comunicación Cultural (1996-1999)

Daytop Village Foundation (1995-1998)

Family Care International (1997-2000)

Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (1996-1999)

Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (1997-2000)

Femmes actives au foyer (1998-2001)

Fondation El Kef pour le développement regional (1997-2000)

Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone (1996-1999)

Fondazione San Patrignano (1997-2000)

Forest Alliance of British Columbia (1996-1999)

Foundation for International Training (1997-2000)

Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción (1997-2000)

Global Cooperation Society International (1997-2000)

Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America (1997-2000)

HelpAge International (1995-1998)

Human Rights Advocates (1997-2000)

Institute for International Economic Cooperation and Development (1997-2000)

Institute of Internal Auditors (1997-2000)

Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (1997-2000)

Inter-American Housing Union (1997-2000)

International Air Transport Association (1997-2000)

International Association for Religious Freedom (1995-1998)

International Association of Judges (1997-2000)

International Association of Soldiers for Peace (1995-1998)

International Association of University Presidents (1997-2000)

International Association of Women in Radio and Television (1997-2000)

International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (1997-2000)

International Council on Management of Population Programmes (1997-2000

International Federation for Home Economics (1997-2000)

International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (1996-1999)

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (1997-2000)

International Human Rights Law Group (1997-2000)

International Indian Treaty Council (1997-2000)

International Lactation Consultant Association (1996-1999)

International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (1997-2000)

International Union of Socialist Youth (1997-2000)

International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (1997-2000)

Japanese Association of International Women's Rights (1998-2001)

Match International Centre (1996-1999)

National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Canada (1997-2000)

National Council of Women of Canada (1997-2000)

National Space Society (1996-1999)

Oxfam Great Britain (1994-1997 and 1998-2001)

Pathways to Peace (1997-2000)

Public Budget International Organization (ASIP) (formerly known as Asociación Interamericana e Ibérica de Presupuesto Público) (1998-2001)

Rivers Club (1997-2000)

Rotary International (1997-2000)

Rural Reconstruction Nepal (1997-2000)

Sisterhood Is Global Institute (1997-2000)

Society for Comparative Legislation (1998-2001)

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (1995-1998)

Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (1998-2001)

Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1997-2000)

World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (1998-2001)

World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (1996-1999)

World Society of Victimology (1995-1998)

(d) To note that the Committee closed the case of two complaints submitted by States against the following organizations:

I. France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand

II. Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples

2003/276
Suspension of consultative status

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided to suspend, for a period of one year, the special consultative status of Reporters without Borders in accordance with paragraph 57 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

2003/277
Implementation of the electronic meeting system ("Paperless Committee")

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of resolution 2003/1 of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the implementation of the electronic meeting system "Paperless Committee",[265] and decided to implement the electronic meeting system referred to therein in the future sessions of the Committee on a trial basis for a period of one year, with a view to its implementation on a permanent basis upon successful completion of the trial phase, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of adequate staff and facilities in order to implement the present decision.

2003/278
Resumed 2003 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold a resumed session for a period of one week, from 15 to19 December 2003, in order to complete the work of its 2003 session.

2003/279
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2003 regular session

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2003 regular session.[266]

2003/280
Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fifth session: Timor-Leste

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendation contained in the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fifth session[267] and decided to include Timor-Leste in the list of least developed countries.

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[265] E/2003/32 (Part I), chap. I.A.

[266] E/2003/32 (Part I and II).

[267] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003 Supplement No. 13* (E/2003/33), chap. IV, para. 35 (a).

2003/281
Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fifth session: Cape Verde and Maldives

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, having endorsed the recommendation regarding Timor-Leste, as contained in the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fifth session,[267]

(a) Took note of chapters I, II, III and V of the report;

(b) Decided to defer consideration of chapter IV (Review of the list of least developed countries), including the question of graduating Cape Verde and Maldives, to its resumed session, and in this regard requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary technical support to the Council for that purpose.

2003/282
Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002, entitled "Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development", decided to consider, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, how to support the objectives of Assembly resolution 57/7 at its resumed session in 2003.

2003/283
Preparations for an international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 57/262 of 20 December 2002 and reiterating the provisions of draft resolution II adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session,[268] in particular its paragraph 9, recommended to the Assembly that travel and subsistence allowance for participants from small island developing States to the preparatory meetings and the international meeting to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[269] be provided from the funds designated by donors for that purpose in the voluntary trust fund established by the Assembly in resolution 57/262.

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[268] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003 Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I.A.

[269] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.8 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2003/284
Statistics

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided to defer consideration of the item to its resumed session of 2003.

2003/285
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, in which the Assembly requested the Council to establish the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as Assembly resolutions 1958 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963, 2294 (XXII) of 11 December 1967, 36/121 D of 10 December 1981, 42/130 of 7 December 1987, 45/138 of 14 December 1990, 48/115 of 20 December 1993, 49/171 of 23 December 1994, 50/228 of 7 June 1996, 51/72 of 12 December 1996, 54/143 of 17 December 1999, 55/72 of 4 December 2000, 56/133 of 19 December 2001 and 57/185 of 18 December 2002, in which the Assembly provided for subsequent increases in the membership of the Executive Committee:

(a) Took note of the request to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees contained in the letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General;[270]

(b) Recommended that the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, decide on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee from sixty-four to sixty-five States.

2003/286
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, in which the Assembly requested the Council to establish the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as Assembly resolutions 1958 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963, 2294 (XXII) of 11 December 1967, 36/121/ D of 10 December 1981, 42/130 of 7 December 1987, 45/138 of 14 December 1990, 48/115 of 20 December 1993, 49/171 of 23 December 1994, 50/228 of 7 June 1996, 51/72 of 12 December 1996 and 54/143 of 17 December 1999, in which the Assembly provided for subsequent increases in the membership of the Executive Committee:

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[270] E/2002/3.

(a) Took note of the request to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees contained in the letter dated 25 April 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General;[271]

(b) Recommends that the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, decide on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee from sixty-five to sixty-six States.

2003/287

Themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the 2004 substantive session of the Council

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council adopted the following themes for the high-level and coordination segment of its substantive session of 2004:

High-level segment

Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

Coordination segment

1. Review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

2. Coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promote rural development in developing countries, with due consideration to least developed countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

2003/288

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with coordination, programme and other questions

At its 48th meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Council took note of the following documentation:

(a) Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2002;[272]

(b) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-third session.[273]

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[271] E/2003/77.

[272] E/2003/55.

[273] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/58/16).

2003/289

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eleventh session and provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Commission

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eleventh session and approved the provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2004/2005:
   (a) Water;
   (b) Sanitation;
   (c) Human settlements.
4. Preparations for an international meeting for the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
5. Other matters.
6. Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twelfth session.

2003/290

Contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on rural development

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note, during its consideration at the high-level segment on rural development, of the contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on this topic, which was addressed by the Commission under the substantive theme of its fifth session in 2001 entitled "National capacity-building on biotechnology" and summarized in its report;[274] in its deliberations under the above theme, the Commission addressed the opportunities and challenges presented by new and emerging biotechnologies and underlined the need for national capacity-building in biotechnology to support efforts in rural development, including improving food security, agricultural productivity, health and environmental sustainability.

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[274] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 11* (E/2001/31), chap. II, paras. 18-26.

2003/291

Duration of future sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, recalling paragraph 7 (a) (v) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 and 2002/37 of 26 July 2002, decided that the duration of the regular sessions of the Commission shall be one week.

2003/292

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.[275]

2003/293

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Commission

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its sixth session;[276]

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Substantive theme: "Promoting science and technology application to meet the Millennium Development Goals".

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[275] A/58/75-E/2003/21.

[276] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 11* (E/2003/31).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

3. Note on implementation and progress made on decisions taken at the sixth regular session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

4. National country reports.

5. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the eighth regular session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and organization of the work of the eighth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session.

2003/294

Recommendations made by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 24 July 2003, in view of the continuing important contributions made by standardized geographical names, toponymic data files and gazetteers to the work of decision makers, cartographers, linguists, planners and the public at large, as well as the essential contribution that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names continue to make to the work of Member States in the field of geographical information and related cartographic areas, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Endorsed the recommendation of the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names[277] that the Ninth Conference should be convened for eight working days in the second half of 2007;

(b) Also endorsed the recommendation of the Eighth Conference that the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should be convened in 2004;[277]

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to take measures, where appropriate and within available resources, to implement the other recommendations made by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, especially with regard to the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

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[277] E/2003/4, para. 4.

2003/295

Status of non-governmental organizations and other major groups accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Council took note of decision 11/1 of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[278] and decided to defer further consideration of this matter to its resumed session of the Economic and Social Council in 2003.

2003/296

Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of decision 11/2 of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[278] and decided to defer further consideration of this matter to its resumed session of the Economic and Social Council in 2003.

2003/297

Date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind paragraph 4 (i) of its resolution 2000/35, decided that the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests will be held in Geneva from 3 to 14 May 2004.

2003/298

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its third session and provisional agenda for its fourth session

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its third session;[279]

(b) Approved the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum as set out below.

Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Status of the Secretariat.

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[278] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I.B.

[279] Ibid., *Supplement No. 22* (E/2003/42).

4. Implementation of the proposal for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
    (a) Progress in implementation:
        (i) Traditional forest-related knowledge;
        (ii) Forest-related scientific knowledge;
        (iii) Social and cultural aspects of forests;
        (iv) Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions;
        (v) Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management;
    (b) Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management) as a cross-cutting issue, considered in the context of sub-items 4 (a), (i) (v) above.
5. Common items for each session:
    (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;
    (b) Enhanced cooperation;
    (c) Country experiences and lessons learned;
    (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;
    (e) Intersessional work;
    (f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;
    (g) Promoting public participation;
    (h) National forest programmes;
    (i) Trade;
    (j) Enabling environment.
6. Other matters.
7. Dates and venue of the fifth session of the Forum.
8. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Forum.
9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session.

2003/299
Intersessional work by ad hoc expert groups

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind paragraph 4 (k) of its resolution 2000/35, and recalling the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, adopted by the Forum in its resolution 1/1,[280] in particular its paragraphs 23 and 24:

(a) *Decided* to establish three ad hoc expert groups to support the work of the Forum, as set out in the annex to the present decision;

(b) *Decided* that the meetings of the ad hoc expert groups on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting and on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies shall be convened in Geneva from 8 to 19 December 2003. The Council also decided that the date of the meeting of the ad hoc expert group on "consideration, with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests" shall be decided at the resumed session of the Council of 2003;

(c) *Invited* each of the five United Nations regional groups to nominate to the Secretariat six country experts for the ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting, and six country experts for the ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, by 15 September 2003;

(d) *Invited* member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests to nominate to the Secretariat a country expert for the ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests by 31 March 2004;

(e) *Decided* that, to ensure efficiency, transparency and balanced reflection of the range of views, the following preparations should be performed for the meeting of the ad hoc expert group meeting on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests:

(i) Presentation of factual and technical information, including updated information on existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests and that of other relevant organizations and agreements including multilateral environmental agreements and regional conventions and processes;

(ii) Compilation of the progress made and catalysts and obstacles encountered by member States and member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in implementing the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the decisions and resolutions of sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(iii) Presentation and detailed description of a range of options, including their legal, financial and institutional modalities;

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[280] See ibid., *2001, Supplement No. 22* (E/2001/42/Rev.1), Part Two, chap. I.B.

(f) *Invited* the member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests to submit their views on (i), (ii) and (iii) above. The member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to provide information on (i) and (ii) above. These views and information should be provided to the Forum secretariat by 31 January 2004;

(g) *Invited* the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat to compile the views submitted by the member States and the information provided by the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in preparation for the ad hoc expert group meeting;

(h) *Decided* that, for its fourth session, the Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests shall keep member States appraised of the progress made in the preparation of documentation for the ad hoc expert group. The Bureau will undertake consultations with the member States by convening a one-day informal meeting in New York immediately after a meeting of the Bureau prior to the fourth session of the Forum;

(i) *Decided* that the United Nations Forum on Forests shall receive an information note at its fourth session on progress in the preparation of documentation for the ad hoc expert group meeting. This note is neither subject to discussion nor negotiation in the Forum;

(j) *Decided* that the official documentation for the consideration of the ad hoc expert group shall be made available to countries 60 days in advance of the meeting of the ad hoc expert group.

Annex

A

Ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting

Scope and work programme

1. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the United Nations Forum on Forests on approaches and mechanisms for the work of the Forum on monitoring, assessment and reporting. Its work should be undertaken within the context of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and relevant resolutions adopted by the Forum at its sessions and should also consider, inter alia, related proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and the outcomes of Forum sessions, including its reports.

Tasks

2. For monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress in implementing IPF/IFF proposals for action and progress towards sustainable forest management, the ad hoc expert group will:

(a) Assess existing reporting requirements under relevant international conventions, processes, instruments and organizations in order to identify strengths, weaknesses and duplication in reporting processes, taking into account the relevant work undertaken by member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(b) Assess existing monitoring and assessment procedures in international conventions, processes, instruments and organizations related to forests in order to identify strengths, weaknesses and duplications, taking into account the relevant work undertaken by member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(c) Propose ways for the Forum to monitor and assess progress, based on:

(i) Voluntary reporting by countries on implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action;

(ii) Voluntary reporting by member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations and international and regional processes on implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action;

(iii) Ongoing work on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management being undertaken at the national, regional and international levels;

(iv) Existing data and information, as well as reporting systems and structures;

(d) Propose an outline for voluntary reporting to the Forum;

(e) Recommend options for drawing upon the reports provided to Forum sessions to identify trends and lessons learned;

(f) Develop recommendations on how to build capacity in countries, including the increase of resources for that goal, for monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.

3. In carrying out these tasks, the ad hoc expert group should take into account the results of intersessional activities related to monitoring, assessment and reporting led by countries, organizations and international and regional processes. Its reports should be made available as a contribution to the discussions at country- and organization-led initiatives of the Forum that are related to the present terms of reference. As relevant, the ad hoc expert group should also take into account the results of the work undertaken by member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on forest-related concepts, terminology and definitions.

Composition and participation

4. The ad hoc expert group shall be composed of 30 experts in accordance with decision 2003/299, to which the present annex is attached, six from each of the five United Nations regional groups.

5. The experts shall have well-recognized scientific and technical expertise in monitoring, assessment and reporting, and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

6. Representatives of the member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests shall be allowed to participate in the first two days of the meeting of the ad hoc expert group and remain as observers for the last three days of the meeting.

7. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group to support the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

8. Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups with relevant expertise may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

9. Travel support and a daily subsistence allowance at established United Nations rates will be provided to each of the experts, if the budget allows, with priority to developing countries, particularly least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition.

Officers

10. The chairman of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among the experts at its meeting.

Duration of work

11. The ad hoc expert group shall initiate its work after the third session of the Forum and complete its work at least three months in advance of the fourth session of the Forum.

Meeting

12. The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days before the end of 2003. It will also use electronic means of communication to the greatest extent possible. The ad hoc expert group meeting will be organized at a United Nations venue where meeting facilities are available, preferably in New York, taking into account cost-effectiveness. To the extent possible, the ad hoc expert group will hold its meeting back to back with the meeting of the ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

Proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Forum

13. The proposals and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group should be provided by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the report of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

Reports

14. The ad hoc expert group shall prepare its report, taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and shall submit its report to the Forum at its fourth session for consideration. The report shall specify the major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

15. The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group, supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

B

Ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies

Scope and work programme

16. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum for its work on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. The work of the ad hoc expert group should be undertaken within the context of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and relevant resolutions adopted by the Forum at its sessions, and should also consider, inter alia, related IPF/IFF proposals for action and outcomes of Forum sessions, including its reports.

Tasks

17. The ad hoc expert group will undertake the following specific tasks on finance:

Finance

(a) Consider previous initiatives on finance, including recommendations from the Croydon, Oslo and Pretoria workshops, as well as the relevant IPF/IFF proposals for action, background papers and strategy documents of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(b) Assess the role and status of official development assistance directed towards sustainable forest management and consider ways for enhancing its availability and effectiveness; in this regard, identify possible means to enhance the efforts of developed countries to fulfil their commitments on official development assistance;

(c) Review the effectiveness of existing international financing for sustainable forest management, including methods and mechanisms; analyse opportunities, country-level gaps, limitations and donor and recipient priorities, as well as the contribution of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests towards financing sustainable forest management; propose measures to improve the effectiveness of that financing for enhancing the enabling environment at both the national and international levels and to attract increased financing from all sources;

(d) Explore the potential of new and innovative approaches to attract increased financing for sustainable forest management; discuss and make suggestions for expanded use of those approaches to address the need for financial resources for financing sustainable forest management, including through national forest programmes or equivalent processes;

(e) Assess country experiences in the mobilization of financial resources to support sustainable forest management; in this regard, identify gaps in, and the potential and limitations of, current financing sources and financial mechanisms in implementing sustainable forest management; propose approaches to enhance and more effectively use and mobilize national and international financial resources;

(f) Assess and consider the role of the private sector in financing sustainable forest management; in this regard, recommend measures to improve the enabling environment for private investment in sustainable forest management, at both the national and international levels; and encourage increased private resource flows to the forest sector, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

18. The ad hoc expert group will undertake the following specific tasks on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies:

Transfer of environmentally sound technologies

(a) Review and assess existing initiatives on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and knowledge diffusion for the promotion of sustainable forest management among countries and sectors and stakeholders, including through North-South, North-North and South-South cooperation and programmes of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. This should include an analysis of incentives that promote, and obstacles that inhibit, the transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies between and/or within countries, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in both the private and public sectors;

(b) Recommend approaches to improve transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies. The recommendation may include the role of various policy instruments, such as concessional and preferential terms, public/private partnerships and research cooperation, as well as capacity-building in the use and application of current and emerging environmentally sound technologies, including remote sensing.

Composition and participation

19. The ad hoc expert group shall consist of 30 experts, six from each of the five regional groups.

20. The experts shall have well-recognized scientific and technical expertise in finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

21. Representatives of the member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests shall be allowed to participate in the first two days of the meetings of the ad hoc expert group and remain as observers for the last three days of the meeting.

22. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group to support the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

23. Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups with relevant expertise may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

24. Travel support and a daily subsistence allowance at established United Nations rates will be provided to each of the experts, if the budget allows, with priority to developing countries, particularly least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition.

Officers

25. The chairman of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among the government-designated experts at its meeting.

Duration of work

26. The ad hoc expert group shall initiate its work after the third session of the Forum and complete its work at least three months in advance of the fourth session of the Forum.

Meeting

27. The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days before the end of 2003. It will also use electronic means of communication to the greatest extent possible. The ad hoc expert group meeting will be organized at a United Nations venue where meeting facilities are available, preferably in New York, taking into account cost-effectiveness. To the extent possible, the ad hoc expert group will hold its meeting back to back with the meeting of the ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting.

Proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Forum

28. The proposals and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group should be provided by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the reports of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

Reports

29. The ad hoc expert group shall prepare its report, taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and shall submit its report to the Forum at its fourth session for consideration. The report shall specify major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

30. The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group, supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

C

Ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests

Scope and work programme

31. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum for its work on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. The work of the ad hoc expert group should be undertaken within the context of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and resolutions adopted by the Forum at its sessions, in particular those referring to the creation and scope of the ad hoc expert groups.

Tasks

32. The reports of the ad hoc expert groups on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting and on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies will serve as inputs to the work of this ad hoc expert group.

33. The ad hoc expert group will undertake the following specific tasks on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests:

(a) Assess existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests; the assessment should include, inter alia, analysis of complementarities, gaps and duplications, and should take into account Forum resolution 2/3[281] on specific criteria for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests;

(b) Consider reports prepared by countries, as referred to in decision 2003/299 to which this annex is attached, the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Forum secretariat, as well as outcomes of Forum sessions;

(c) Consider other outcomes of the international arrangement on forests, inter alia, the efforts of countries to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action, other expert groups, country- and organization-led initiatives of the Forum and previous relevant initiatives, and forest-related work undertaken by the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(d) Review the relevant experiences of existing forest-related and other relevant organizations and agreements, including multilateral environmental agreements and regional conventions and processes, focusing on complementarities, gaps and duplications;

(e) Provide for the consideration of the Forum at its fifth session, a balanced range of options with respect to "consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests".

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[281] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 22* (E/2002/42), chap. II.B.

Composition and participation

34. The ad hoc expert group shall be composed of experts of the member States of the Forum.

35. The experts shall have well-recognized scientific and technical expertise on the forest regime and the Rio conventions and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

36. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group to support the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

37. Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups with relevant expertise may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

38. Travel support and a daily subsistence allowance at the established United Nations rates will be provided to one country expert from each developing country, as well as to one country expert from countries with economies in transition, to the maximum extent from the budget, supplemented by voluntary extrabudgetary contributions.

Officers

39. Two co-chairpersons of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among experts at its meeting, one from a developing country and one from a developed country.

Duration of work

40. The ad hoc expert group shall initiate its work immediately after the fourth session of the Forum and complete its work at least three months in advance of the fifth session of the Forum.

Meeting

41. The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days. It will also use electronic means of communication to the greatest extent possible. The ad hoc expert group meeting will be organized at a United Nations venue where meeting facilities are available, preferably in New York, taking into account cost-effectiveness.

Proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Forum

42. The proposals and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group should be provided by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the reports of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

Reports

43. The ad hoc expert group shall adopt a report at its meeting, for submission to the Forum at its fifth session. The report shall specify major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

44. The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group, supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

2003/300

Workshop on the collection of data concerning indigenous peoples

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Authorized the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to convene, as an initial step, a three-day workshop on the collection of data concerning indigenous peoples, with the participation of three members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; experts from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including both statistics experts and focal points on indigenous issues; the secretariat of the Forum; experts from indigenous peoples organizations with expertise related to the collection of data concerning indigenous peoples; two academic experts in the field; and interested States;

(b) Authorized the provision of all necessary conference facilities for the workshop;

(c) Decided that the workshop will produce a report containing recommendations for consideration by the Forum at its third session, in 2004.

2003/301

High-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of draft decision II adopted by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues[282] and the elements contained therein and decided to consider indigenous issues as a theme for its high-level segment in 2006, in accordance with established procedures set out in General Assembly resolution 50/227.

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[282] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23* (E/2003/43), chap. I.A.

2003/302

Participation of members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the importance for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to be represented, by its Chairperson or designated members, at various meetings of relevance to its mandate throughout the year, decided to confirm such representation as one of the methods of work of the Forum, and further requested that all subsidiary bodies of the Council welcome the Forum and its members by issuing invitations to Forum members to attend all relevant meetings, conferences and seminars.

2003/303

Bureau of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, having taken note that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues considered it useful to designate six members for its Bureau at its first and second sessions, confirmed that emerging practice as a method of work of the Forum.

2003/304

Venue and dates for the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided that the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 May 2004.

2003/305

Provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the third session set out below.

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Substantive theme: "Indigenous women".

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

4. Mandated areas:
    (a) Economic and social development;
    (b) Environment;
    (c) Health;
    (d) Human rights;
    (e) Culture;
    (f) Education.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

5. Future work of the Forum.
6. Draft agenda for the fourth session of the Forum.
7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session.

2003/306
Proposal for a second international decade of the world's indigenous people

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit to the General Assembly the recommendation contained in draft decision VII,[283] adopted by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues regarding a Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People with a view to initiating consideration of such a decade, taking into account, inter alia, the forthcoming review by the Council in 2004, and further decided to initiate this review.

2003/307
Review of indigenous issues within the United Nations system

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided to:

(a) Postpone consideration of the review mandated by its decision 2002/286 of 25 July 2002 of all existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous issues with a view to rationalizing activities, avoiding duplication and overlap and promoting effectiveness, to its substantive session in 2004;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to seek information related to the review from those Governments, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples organizations and the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations system, including the special mechanisms seized with indigenous issues, which have not yet submitted their views;

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[283] Ibid.

(c) Also to request the Secretary-General, on the basis of the information received, to provide additional substantive analysis addressing the elements contained in paragraph 8 of its resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000.

2003/308

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided to defer consideration of the item to its resumed session.

2003/309

Documents considered by the Council in connection with economic and environmental questions

Under sub-item 13 (b)

At its 49th meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society.[284]

Under sub-item 13 (d)

At its 29th meeting, on 10 July 2003, the Council took note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.[285]

Under sub-item 13 (e)

At its 29th meeting, on 10 July 2003, the Council took note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.[286]

Under sub-item 13 (j)

At its 47th meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.[287]

Under sub-item 13 (k)

At its 48th meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.[288]

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[284] A/58/74-E/2003/58.

[285] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 8* (A/58/8).

[286] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/58/25).

[287] A/57/165 and Add.1.

[288] E/2003/4.

Under sub-item 13 (l)

At its 49th meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.[289]

2003/310

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with social and human rights questions

At its 49th meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

Under sub-item 14 (b)

Note by the Secretary-General[290] transmitting the report on preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004.[291]

Report of the Secretary-General on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.[292]

Under sub-item 14 (c)

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.[293]

Under sub-item 14 (e)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.[294]

Under sub-item 14 (f)

Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/195.[295]

Under sub-item 14 (h)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council.[296]

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[289] E/2003/46.

[290] A/58/67-E/2003/49.

[291] E/CN.5/2003/6.

[292] A/58/61-E/2003/5.

[293] A/58/87-E/2003/82.

[294] E/2003/68.

[295] A/58/80-E/2003/71.

[296] E/2003/73.

Under sub-item 14 (g)

At its 48th meeting, on 24 July 2003, the Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-ninth session;[297]

(b) Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions.[298]

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[297] E/2003/23 (Part I)

[298] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 2* (E/2003/22).